METRO / A23

Salonga resigns from Sigma Rho fraternity over hazing death

SPORTS / A29

McLaren fined $100M in F1 'spy' controversy

BUSINESS / B1

OFW remittances up 4.6% to $1.1B in July

NEWS / A2

Erap amnesty may yet be acceptable, says lawyer

NEWS / A7

TRO issued against GMO rice product

'Nobody wants Boracay Mansion'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE BORACAY MANSION, said to be the palatial residence of the mistress of ousted President Joseph Estrada which figured in Estrada's trial and eventual conviction for plunder, is now only a shadow of what it once was. It is abandoned, dilapidated and seen nobody even cares to invest in.

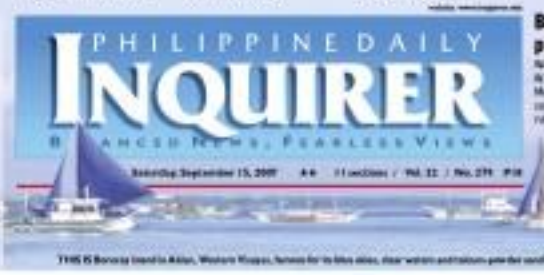
"Nobody wants the Boracay Mansion. When we auctioned it off, there were no bidders," said Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BRINGING NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, September 15, 2007 44 / 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 279 P18

Bush orders partial pullout of US troops

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush announced Thursday (Friday in Manila) he would pull out some 21,500 combat troops from Iraq by mid-2008, but ruled out a full withdrawal and promised that "enduring" US presence in the troubled country.

"Because of the measure of success we are seeing in Iraq,



THIS IS Boracay Island in Aklan, Western Visayas, famous for its blue skies, clear waters and talcum-powder sand. It is a haven for foreign and local tourists.

SHABBY CHIC. Overgrown with weeds and half-choked by stagnant water, dead leaves and rubble, the Boracay mansion looks (right) is only a shadow of what it once was in this photo (left) on the bequeather's front page on Oct. 24, 2000. The photos were sent to the Inquirer by a mystery person whose identity remains unknown.

JDV's son bares threats

Joma on jail: I felt like living in a toilet

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER 17 DAYS OF DETENTION in a Dutch penitentiary facility where "I felt like living in a toilet," Jose Ma. Sison feels relieved to be free again, is confident his case would be dismissed, and plans to run from authorities.

"I'm overjoyed that I'm out of solitary confinement," Sison said yesterday from his home in Utrecht. "It was frustrating to be subjected to solitary confinement and rough interrogation under overheated lamps."

The founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) had been held since Aug. 20 at the Scheveningen Prison in The Hague for allegedly ordering the killings of two communist rivals.

The Hague court ordered his release Thursday, saying "the files do not include sufficient indications that the accused, while living in the

JOSE MA. SISON, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, leaves prison with his belongings in a cart Thursday in Scheveningen in the Netherlands.

All 'fairy tales,' says DOTC's Mendoza

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra

FOR OPPOSING THE $329-MILLION National Broadband Network deal clinched by China's ZTE Corp. and exposing the alleged corruption surrounding the project, businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III has purportedly received threats from powerful persons.

De Venecia, subsidiary of American Holdings Inc. (AHI) and a son and namesake of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, said he had received three threatening messages so far, including one that supposedly came from the camp of Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Asked to comment, Mendoza said: "I don't want to dignify Fairy tales being woven by a losing bidder. Neither do I threaten people because it's not in my character. I just do what I have to do."

AHI is one of the companies that wanted to bid for the NBN project but was advertised when Mendoza signed the contract with ZTE officials last April, in the presence of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in Boao, China.

Dr. Venecia told the Inquirer that a friend of his—who, according to him, was "very close" to Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos—had relayed to him that Mendoza was "burning me down."

"Joey, you should be wary of Mendoza. Abalos is Abalos, but Mendoza is a general," he quoted his friend as saying.

But Mendoza denied this and declined to answer further questions on the NBN project, that the Supreme Court had declared temporarily on hold.

Mendoza said that the matter was sub judice, citing the petitions filed against the Department of Transportation and Communications before the high court and the Office of the Ombudsman.

But, he said, the government would leave it to the courts to decide whether there was treachery in the deal.

Ridiculous, says Abalos of wiretap rap

By Lila B. Salaverria

FINDING HIMSELF IN ANOTHER wiretapping controversy, Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday declared he ordered the bugging of the phone of businessman Jose de Venecia III in connection with the $329-million national broadband network deal and branded the latter's allegations as "ridiculous."

Abalos called on the public and the media to be careful not to believe the statements of the son of Speaker Jose de Venecia, and said his lawyer was preparing to file several libel charges against the younger De Venecia for his continued attacks on him.

De Venecia had claimed in an affidavit that he learned his phone had been wiretapped when Abalos called him and boasted him for selling details of the

Pacman packs more 'power' than Erap

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INCIDENT FIGHT TO the finish between Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and the retired pugilist-turned-actor Eric Ejercito was the talk of the town yesterday.

Gonzalez undergoes surgery

By Lyla B. Salaverria and Jeannette I. Andrade

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez underwent a kidney transplant at the National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKTI) early yesterday, according to a source close to Gonzalez.

The operation began at 3 a.m. yesterday, said the source, who asked not to be identified because he had no authority to issue a statement.

The donor was Gonzalez's driver, whom another source identified as Felicito Ocampo

Rustom's gay redemption: Urian award

By Gerry Pisay
Inquirer.net

IT WAS A SEEMING MOMENT FOR AN ACTOR whose courageous disclosure of his sexuality appears to have triggered discord within his eighth-kin family. At Thursday night's star-studded 2007 Gawad Urian at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater on the Ateneo de Manila University campus, he said he hoped his victory was a step closer to "being with [them] again."

The now openly gay Rustom Padilla, launched as a matinee idol in the late 1990s, brought home the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino's top male acting plum for his work in Angel Filter" ("Isa Eto Exterminate Ko Mesweh" as a homosexual).

"Since ang parodo long ito ay patunay ito na kayong gusto ng isang kaibigan ko ang mahawid ang pintong kinrogulan ko. I hope this triumph is proof that someone like me could aspire for such an honor as this," a teary-eyed Padilla told the luminaries after word.

BEST ACTOR winner Rustom Padilla, greeting a hug from brother Robin, hopes his win would mend his estranged relationship with his family.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 FOUR DIGIT

SUERTRES

MEGALOTTO 6/45

₱14,597,335.80

Amnesty may yet be acceptable

WHAT'S INSIDE

Key Erap ally opens possibility of reconciliation

FINANCE and trade officials fail to impress senators on what RP stands to gain from the Jpepa agreement /A9

EDUCATION chief gives in to solons' demand for a copy of the MOA on the cyber education project /A22

2 BROTHERS long wanted by the FBI nabbed by immigration agents in Quezon City /A4

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON is out of the question, but amnesty may be acceptable.

A key ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada has opened the door for a possible reconciliation with the Arroyo administration, following the fallen leader's concession for plunder by the Sandiganbayan.

Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, spokesperson of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, on Thursday said the "all-encompassing" amnesty previously pushed by Speaker Jose de Venecia—not pardon—could be acceptable for the Estrada camp.

"Pardon will not be acceptable because it will entail the admission of guilt," Rodriguez told the Inquirer during a forum at the House committee on appropriations deliberations.

According to the Cagayan de Oro representative, amnesty does not bother with the guilt or innocence of a person. Instead, it "removes the sin itself" without limiting to admit one wrongdoing.

No guilt admission

"Amnesty will probably be acceptable because there is no admission of guilt and it erases the crime itself," Rodriguez said.

Maintaining that Estrada was innocent of plunder, he appeared encouraged by the idea that the amnesty proposed by De Venecia was meant to foster "national unity and reconciliation."

Of the perceived enemies of the current administration, only Estrada was involved in a case, which could addressed by amnesty—could achieve such an end, according to Rodriguez.

Last month, Dr. Francis Bonoan of a "while-singing, all-encompassing amnesty to cover all situations and all those who have committed political crimes against the state."

Common ...

Asked whether Estrada would be included in the amnesty, the speaker replied, "Let it come naturally. Let it be a consensus of all." At the time, Estrada had yet to be convicted by the anti-graft court.

Rodriguez said he would speak with De Venecia on Monday to personally inquire about the amnesty proposal and how this could apply to Estrada.

In the meantime, he said he would also discuss the matter with the former president with an inquiry as to the chronology of the Sandiganbayan decision to the Supreme Court.

From the wide-ranging amnesty supported by De Venecia, Rodriguez has picked up the position intended for reconciliation principle.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation No. 1377, which invites insurgents waging the oldest Maoist rebellion in Asia to return to the folds of the law. The proclamation, which requires the concurrence of both chambers of Congress, has been transmitted to the House of Representatives.

Right step

The president of the 120-strong organization said the presidential justice is the right step toward bridging the gap between the political divisions.

"I am supporting the suggestion of a presidential pardon for the ousted former president because I strongly believe that such will pave the way to national unity and reconciliation," Abalos said in a statement yesterday.

He stated that such a move was within the President's prerogatives.

Abalos said he was set to sponsor a resolution in the LDP urging the administration to extend clemency to Estrada.

He also appealed to other city mayors to voice out "their support for pardon for the former president."

Meanwhile, Estrada will still be allowed to receive visitors as he rest house in Tanay, Rizal.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Directorate for Operations chief Director Nelbert Sarmiento said the indigent court did not direct the police to bar anyone from visiting Estrada.

"We will allow the former president to receive visitors except if there's an order from the court barring visitors," said Sarmiento. /With reports from Norman L. Allosada and Alexis Romero

FORMER President Joseph Estrada is escorted to a helicopter as he flies back to his rest house in Tanay after the conviction by the Sandiganbayan on Thursday. (INQUIRER.net photo)

Legal battle far from over, says prosecutor

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE VERDICT IS OUT BUT THE ESTRADA legal battle is far from over, according to Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

The 10-year-old lead prosecutor in the ₱4-billion plunder case against Joseph Estrada yesterday said there was still work to do in order for the council president's civil liability to be completely.

Villa-Ignacio told the Inquirer he was forming a 15-man team—five lawyers and 12 field investigators—to recover the ₱1.2 billion which previously formed the "Jose Velarde" account at the Equitable PCI Bank.

That account has been reduced to a measly ₱1,000. It has not been established who depleted it.

How to go on

"We are starting a team to pursue the civil aspect in recovering the illegally amassed wealth of the former President ... It is step by step as we are here to look for paper trails to help us locate the ₱1.2 billion. They must have disposed it somewhere," he said.

In convicting Estrada of plunder and sentencing him up to 40 years in jail, the Sandiganbayan Special Division ordered the forfeiture of ₱545.2 million in properties—among the amount Estrada amassed in "jueteng" payoffs, inclusive of the ₱200 million deposited in the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation account.

Forfeited

Also forfeited in favor of the government was the ₱189-million commission "collected" by Estrada from Belle Resources and the ₱142-million real estate in New Manila, Quezon City, dubbed the "Boracay Mansion."

Villa-Ignacio said this represented less than a quarter of the wealth believed to be illegally acquired by the former president.

The Special Division did not order the forfeiture of the ₱1.2-billion Jose Velarde account because the prosecution failed to establish the manner by which the deposits were acquired.

Moreover, the special prosecutor stressed that the government was confident in winning after Estrada's pardon.

Australia warns its citizens vs traveling to Mindanao

AUSTRALIA WARNS ITS CITIZENS FRO...ing against traveling to the southern Philippines, where it said recent credible reports indicate terrorist plots to attack tourist infrastructure.

In a travel advisory posted on its website, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said "credible information indicates terrorists may be in the advanced stages of planning attacks."

"The attacks may be imminent and could occur at any time anywhere in Mindanao," the advisory said.

It advised Australians in the island resort region of Palawan to be extra careful.

Al-Qaeda-linked militants have been blamed for several bombings recently in Muslim-backed Philippine troops battled extremists on nearby Jolo and Basilan islands.

Australia's advisory also warned travelers may be planning attacks on places frequented by foreigners, including in the capital, Manila, and the south.

They include bars, shopping malls, fast food outlets and places of worship, as well as ports and airports.

In 2004, Abu Sayyaf militants, members of the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah, blew up a passenger ferry in Manila Bay, killing 116 people in the country's worst terrorist attack. AP

Gloria wants computerized barangay polls

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO wants the forthcoming barangay elections to be computerized, more than a month before the next May 2010 polls along with the Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 27.

The President made the call yesterday in the signed the senator's measure to help the government push for the modernization of elections.

"Let us use our right of suffrage to modernize the Philippines to make the life of our nation a better one with more economic opportunity, greater social justice and better chances for our children," Mr. Arroyo said in a speech she delivered during the 70th anniversary celebration of Women's Suffrage at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

In her speech, President Arroyo urged women to exercise their right to vote and said that they could execute the right "to do fullest," by rejecting for electoral reforms.

"Our administration has long provided funds for computerization of elections," Mr. Arroyo said. "Let's campaign for automation of voting, counting and canvassing starting with the coming barangay elections."

She also asked for the people to unite on this issue. "We can disagree on political goals but not on the conduct of democratic elections."

She urged women to lobby for a law to fund poll watchdogs and a stronger law against election-related violence.

"To be able to lobby for all of these...we want an organization like the women's organizations represented here...to empower women to organize at the grassroot level, with training on leadership, communication, negotiation, assertiveness," the President said. Otoniel G. Arnaldo

Immigration agents nab 2 brothers wanted by FBI

By Marjorie C. Ortiz

TWO FILIPINO-AMERICAN brothers long wanted by United States federal authorities for a string of gang-related murder and attempted murder cases have been arrested by immigration agents in Quezon City.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said fugitives Marvin Arlou Morales, 34, and his brother Pavers, 33, were arrested on Thursday at their condominium residence.

Libanan said the Morales brothers have been on the wanted list of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) since 1997 when they fled to the Philippines to evade arrest and prosecution.

Marvin and Pavers will be deported to the US to face the charges, "after which they would be blacklisted and banned from returning to the Philippines," Libanan said.

He said the Morales have been on the Bureau of Immigration's wanted list since Nov. 20, 1996 after the FBI informed the bureau about the brothers' escape to the Philippines.

He said the Morales are also covered by federal arrest warrants for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

"They will be deported for being undocumented and undesirable aliens because the US State Department earlier cancelled their US passports," Libanan said.

According to FBI technical assistant for intelligence Victor Boco, the Morales are members of the notorious Avina Boyz gang in California and have been described as "extremely violent" by the authorities for their alleged involvement in a series of gang-related murders in 1995.

FBI travel records revealed that Marvin fled to Manila on June 12, 1996 while Pavers followed him on Aug. 12, 2000.

Boco said Marvin has been charged with six counts of murder, 13 counts of attempted murder and four counts of conspiracy to commit murder with a firearm.

"[Marvin] is wanted in the US for his alleged involvement in the murder of two Hispanic gang members in San Mateo, California, wherein one of the victims was shot 40 times," Boco said.

Marvin's other cases pertained to his alleged role in the murder of rival gang members in the west of where were reportedly killed without provocation, according to the FBI.

Pavers was charged with two counts of attempted murder. Boco said one of the cases stemmed from Pavers's involvement in a car-to-car shooting at the Los Angeles freeway.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
Senate president Manny Villar receives a plaque of appreciation after delivering a speech Friday at the 70th anniversary celebration of women's suffrage at the Philippine International Convention Center. Presenting the plaque are Rosario B. Vilar (left), president of the NPWC Foundation, and Pilar C. Bonifacio, NPWC Foundation overall policies chair. Hundreds of women leaders throughout the country joined for a worship, which was also attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor. (Lyndon Mayo)

LAUFEN
bathroom
BUY 1 Fixture GET 1 Fixture FREE!
ON ALL BATHROOM FIXTURES
active global sourcing, inc.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 14 ISSUE, A photo caption on the front page—"Showing their true colors"—mentioned the name of an animal rights group. The organization's name is People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—not People Ethical Treatment of Animals.

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the article on Page A2[illegible]

4 combat-weary MILF men give up

AFTER NEARLY FIVE YEARS OF working in Manila as political drivers, four combat-weary fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) voluntarily surrendered Thursday to Army troops stationed in Panaon Compound, an army command[illegible]

The four rebels left Maguindanao in 2002 because "they have grown tired of fighting," Col. Rolando Vinuya, commander of the Army Civil Military Operations (CMO) Battalion, told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Three months ago, nine other MILF rebels surrendered to the CMO in Metro Manila, Vinuya said.

Vinuya added that his commander showed the MILF members' "confidence" in the troops deployed in various communities in Metro Manila.

Vinuya said the four incapacitated rebels were in[illegible]

Study in America
The AEO Tour

If you want to learn more about education opportunities in the United States, come to the
AMERICAN EDUCATION EXHIBITION

This will be your opportunity to discuss:
admission requirements, curriculum, career planning, financial assistance, housing, costs, sports & activities, work study, ESL programs.

Representatives from
State Universities, Catholic Universities, Christian Universities, Independent Universities and Colleges

Two-Year Colleges, Community Colleges, College of Arts & Design

MANILA
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
Time: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Exhibition: Quezon ABC Ballroom

ADMISSION IS FREE
Interview Sessions and Exhibitions

The Daily Gospel

Saturday, September 15, 2007
Our Lady of Sorrows

1st Reading: Heb 5:7-9
Gospel: Luke 2:33-35

[illegible]

Philhome 2007
Philippine Home Builders Expo
BUILDCON
BUILDING TRUCK
Day 3
Build, Construct, Renovate, Beautify & Finance your Dream House!
FREE! ENTRANCE, SEMINAR, PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
September 13-16, 2007
World Trade Center • Open from 10am - 7 pm

Low pressure area spotted over N. Luzon

A LOW PRESSURE AREA (LPA) developed over northern Luzon hours before typhoon "Italove" (international code name: Saca) exited her sight vowed Japan, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said yesterday.

The low pressure area, a weather system associated with rain, has little effect on the southwest monsoon, according to Pagasa forecaster Domingo Flores.

The typhoon induced the southwest monsoon to bring rain to northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The heaviest rainfall of 39 mm was recorded in Baroque in northern Luzon from Thursday morning to Friday morning, according to Pagasa.

As it exited to the southern Japan, the cyclone, packing maximum sustained winds of 140 kph and with gustiness of 175 kph, no longer posed a threat to any part of the archipelago, Pagasa said.

The southwest monsoon, enhanced by the typhoon, however, would continue to bring rain over the western sections of Luzon and Mindoro, Coast Guard spokesperson Lt. Gil Barrabona said.

AFP backtracks on Jonas case

By Nikko Dizon

APPARENTLY BENT ON EVADING the battle of missing activist Jonas Burgos in a "legal battle," the Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday said there are "legal procedures" it could undertake to keep confidential its investigation report on the loss of a car license plate in its custody but later it was difficult to carry out the document voluntarily.

It was a complete turnaround from the statement given by AFP chief of staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. himself a week ago that the military will abide by the order of the Court of Appeals and release the report.

Explaining the military's current position, AFP spokesperson, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, merely said "there are legal procedures that could still be employed so as not to release the report."

Told that Esperon had already agreed to release the report, Bacarro said "there are still legal procedures that could be employed" to keep the report confidential.

Bacarro cited the motion for reconsideration to be filed by the Solicitor General and a memorandum circular that states "disclosure policies" on certain documents.

Asked if the AFP will release the report only after the courts rule with finality, Bacarro replied: "We will see what the comments of (our lawyers) would be. It's a legal battle. We have a defense counsel, which is the solicitor general. We will see on things develop in court."

In an interview on Sept. 7 at Camp Aguinaldo, Esperon had told reporters that the military will release the report following the order of the Court of Appeals.

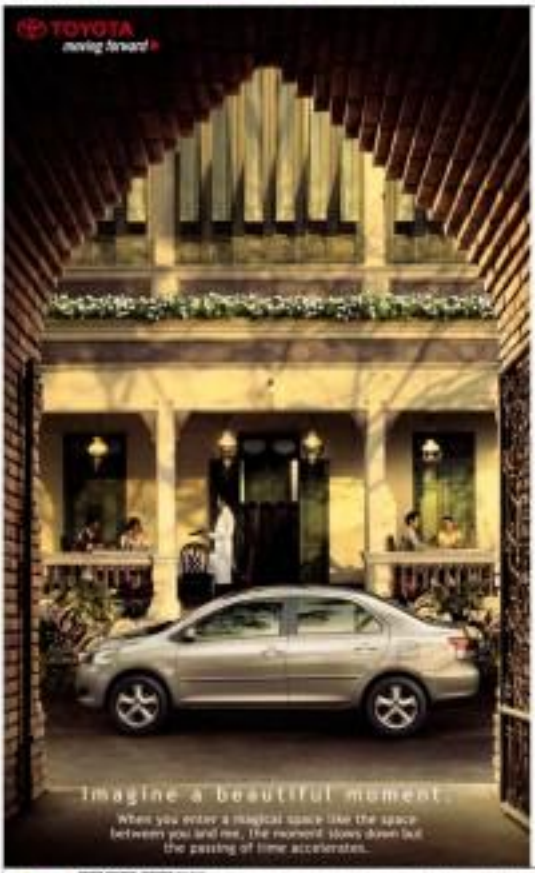
"It's a legal court order so by all means we have to follow the court order and the laws of the land," Esperon had said.

Nonetheless, he had also pointed out in the interview that the report has been marked "confidential" ... so that the integrity of some people will not be prejudiced, as well as some security concerns."

"I don't know how the Court of Appeals will treat it if they see some security matters there. But it's a court order and we recognize that. We will comply (with it)," Esperon had said.

The family of Burgos, 36, believes the military was behind his abduction on April 28 after the license plate (XH 4941) on the abductors' getaway vehicle was traced to an impounded vehicle at the headquarters of the 56th Infantry Battalion in Bonuyagan, Bulacan.

But military officials claimed that the license plate got lost in the camp in late 2006, prompting the AFP Provost Marshall to conduct an investigation into its disappearance.



THE P142-MILLION Boracay mansion before it went to seed.

THIS IS what's left of what was once a mansion in upscale New Manila in Quezon City in this photo taken Friday.

'Nobody wants Boracay Mansion'

Front page A1

treasurer Victor Endriga.

In September 2000, the Quezon City government set up an auction for the 7,400-square-meter property located at 180 10th and 11th Streets, in New Manila, after its owners failed to pay P1.7 million in real property taxes that had accumulated since 2000.

Before the mansion was put up for auction, St. Peter's Holdings Inc., its registered owner, was served notice of possible forfeiture for nonpayment of real property taxes. However, the Quezon City government found that there was no longer a company by that name at the address given, 13th floor, Strata 100 building in the Ortigas business district.

"The company was no longer there, like it just vanished," said Endriga.

The disappearance of the registered owner of the property confirmed the city government's previous findings with the auction of the mansion after the five-year grace period. However, the auction ended with no bidders, resulting in its forfeiture in favor of the city government.

In Peter's Holdings is alleged to be a front corporation formed by five senior partners of Jose De Borja, Medialdea, Bello, Gutierrez, Sempio and Gresalina Javellana to purchase almost a billion pesos worth of land and houses in Estrada's behalf from 1998 until early 2000, shortly before his ouster in 2000.

Jose Pido, Estrada's buddy and short-lived banking adviser who acted as St. Peter's chair, signed the deed for the purchase of the property from the Madrigal family on Oct. 1, 1999.

The mansion was said to be a gift that Estrada gave his mistress and mother of three of his many children, actress Laarni Enriquez. Estrada said his family by Enriquez lived in the mansion for a few months in 2002 but claimed that the property was owned by a corny, businessman Jaime Dichaves.

As Estrada's impeachment and subsequent plunder trial, state prosecutors said the Estrada used money from illegal gambling bribes to acquire the Boracay Mansion which they said was worth P142 million.

Senator Bosco Bai Dot, Luis "Chavit" Singson, the government's main witness in the plunder trial, described a meeting he had with Estrada at the Boracay Mansion to discuss "layoring," the illegal numbers game.

During the trial, the antigraft court arranged an inspection of the by then abandoned property in 2003.

Following its judgment finding Estrada guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the crime of plunder, promulgated last Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan ordered the forfeiture in favor of the government of the Boracay Mansion.

Endriga said the reason diners have been so salient for the property may be the legal complications associated with it.

"Interested bidders may have been afraid of getting involved in a property that has been so controversial," he said.

The Boracay Mansion is one of five pieces of Estrada property which the Sandiganbayan has ordered forfeited in favor of the government.

The Quezon City government said it would question the inclusion of the Boracay Mansion as it was now the city's property.

"The legal department has sent a letter to the Sandiganbayan to inform the court that the property no longer belongs to former President Estrada but it was owned by the Quezon City government," Endriga said.

He said the city government would wait for the response of the Sandiganbayan before deciding what to do with the mansion which he said could be converted into a museum or a library.

Endriga said the property has been sadly circulated with the destruction of the main structure.

"It has been ransacked. The lot is the only thing that still has value in that property. There is nothing left of the house," he remarked.

Endriga said the entire roof of the once lavish residence has been looted and the reportedly gold fixtures in the bathrooms removed. Even the steel railings of the fence were not spared by looters who pulled them out possibly to sell to junk shops.

"The property has long been abandoned. There is no security guard, that's why it was easily ransacked. Without the property being cleared by the court, we could not do anything to stop the looting," the city treasurer said.

The only trace of the mansion's history of luxury and excess is a few pillars and a cracked tile facade.

The line white sand that was reportedly flown in from the renowned resort island, for which the mansion was named, has been replaced by rubble. The swimming pool is now just a huge, ugly hole.

"The city mayor (Felicitas Belmonte) has many plans for Boracay Mansion. But we cannot move until the Sandiganbayan clears the property from any legal encumbrances," Endriga said.

PHOC

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), through the Privatization Committee of PNOC (PRIMOCOM), invites interested parties to pre-qualify and submit Proposal(s) to acquire PNOC Energy Development Corporation (PNOC EDC) now in PNOC's possession and control, and which is/are currently represented by all of the outstanding capital stock of PNOC EDC (the "Shares"), as follows:

Class of Stock	No. of Shares	% of Total Outstanding
Common	30,000,000	30.00%
Preferred	70,000,000	70.00%

An interested party or its duly authorized agent must submit a Letter of Intent ("LOI") to the PRIMOCOM, stating such interested party's intention to participate in the Bidding of the Shares and indicating such interested party's or agent's full name, address, telephone and fax number, and the name of the principal contact person. The LOI must be signed by the interested party or the agent's authorized representative.

The LOI must be submitted to the PRIMOCOM beginning 09:00 a.m. on 18 September 2001 but in any event no later than 12:00 noon on 24 September 2001. They are immediately then, or at any time or through its agent, submit a QUALIFICATION FORM to the interested party or authorized representative.

The LOI must be submitted to the PRIMOCOM beginning 09:00 a.m. on 18 September 2001 but in any event no later than 12:00 noon on 24 September 2001. They are immediately then, or at any time or through its agent, submit a QUALIFICATION FORM to the interested party or the agent's authorized representative.

Beginning on 19 September 2001, the Information Memorandum for the Shares shall be made available by the PRIMOCOM to Prospective Bidders.

A pre-bid conference for Prospective Bidders shall be held at 2:00 p.m. on 26 September 2001 at the Tri-Tran PNOC Main Office, PNOC Building III, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Prospective Bidders shall submit to the PRIMOCOM on or before 2:00 p.m. on 03 October 2001 the duly accomplished pre-qualification requirements, including the duly executed Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking, in order to be considered for pre-qualification. The PRIMOCOM shall endeavor to inform Qualified Bidders on or around 05 October 2001.

Only parties who are pre-qualified Bidders by the PRIMOCOM may participate in the public bidding for the Shares of the Company to be held on 12 October 2001 and 13 October 2001. Pre-qualified Bidder shall be furnished by the PRIMOCOM with the Bid Transaction Documents, the Information Package and Due Diligence Procedures. Only pre-qualified Bidders shall be given the opportunity to conduct due diligence on the Shares and on PNOC EDC and its subsidiaries from 08 October 2001 to 09 October 2001, in accordance with the Due Diligence Procedures.

To allow the PRIMOCOM an opportunity to qualify the Pre-qualified Bidders or any consortium or any of its affiliates to be formed in accordance with the Bidding Rules (Consortium"), each Pre-qualified Bidder or Consortium shall submit the Final Qualification Documents in order to register to the PRIMOCOM on or after 9:00 am on 08 October 2001.

Pre-qualified Bidders and Consortia that pass the final qualification ("Qualified Bidders") shall submit their bid together with any other documents as may be required to the PRIMOCOM on or before 10:00 a.m. on 12 November 2001 to the Chairperson of the PRIMOCOM, Atty. Delia B. Taggao, III-D, 4th Floor Tri-Tran PNOC Building III, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The PRIMOCOM reserves the right to disqualify any party should it determine that any submission by such party is not complete, fulfills complete, authentic, and/or complied with the Bidding Rules if Procedures set out in Supplemental Bid Bulletins issued in connection with the Bidding.

The PRIMOCOM reserves the right to reject any and all bids, bids not qualification requirements, final qualification requirements, bids and other documents required to be submitted in the course of the Bidding, or to declare a failure of bidding, or not to consider bids for sale of the Shares, or to annul the Bidding and to reject any or all bids without incurring any liability to the affected bidders. PRIMOCOM does not undertake any obligation to compensate or indemnify qualified for expenses or losses incurred by any party in connection with the Bidding, the determination that an award is not made within a month.

The PRIMOCOM reserves the right to change the schedule in relation to the Bidding and to other conditions set by the PRIMOCOM. Bidding Schedule/Conditions/price notice. Bidders shall be promptly notified of any change to the Bidding Schedule through a Supplemental Bid Bulletin. The PRIMOCOM furthermore reserves the right to amend, revise, supplement, modify, or clarify the Bidding Rules if necessary or appropriate. Supplemental Bid Bulletins, Bidder Announcements or Clarifications shall be issued by the PRIMOCOM.

Further information and clarifications pursuant to this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid may be addressed and submitted to:

Chairperson
PRIMOCOM
Tri-Tran Pnoc Building III
4th Floor
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. (632) 840-1618 E-mail: chairperson@pnoc.com.ph

(Sgd.) KATHERINE ONLAO
Chairman, PRIMOCOM
President & CEO, PNOC

Pacman packs more 'power' than Erap

From page A1

on the plunder case of former President Joseph Estrada, who was voted to office by 11 million people.

According to data from the Philippine Electricity Market Corp., the operator of the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), power demand spiked by 113 megawatts last Wednesday when the Sandiganbayan handed down its decision on the plunder charges against Estrada.

However, the power demand spikes were more significant on days when the Pacquiao fights were televised, said PEMC executive vice president Maria Fe Pangilinan.

"During the last Pacquiao match, we saw a rise of around 400 MW in power demand. We're anticipating that Pacquiao's match in Geneva will result in the same demand rise," he said in a briefing yesterday.

The demand surge, he said, was very significant, considering that big boxing matches such as Pacquiao's usually took place Sunday mornings.

Sunday is considered an off-peak period in the power sector, as demand is usually lower on this day because of slow activity from industrial power users.

Power demand trends

Power demand spikes take place even on days when there are no Pacquiao fights or a promulgation of a court decision on Erap.

Based on historical data, power demand is traditionally highest during the summer months—from March to June—when the weather is warmer and more people turn to air-conditioners.

Demand is lower during weekends and holidays and drops when most industries cease operations—usually very early in the morning and late at night.

Forecasting is important, both under supply and demand rules, as this gives PEMC an idea of when prices will go.

In August, for example, prices at the electricity spot market were lower due to reduced consumer demand and lower price offers by the electricity traders.

The PEMC, like the stock market, is a venue where electricity is traded in a transparency by generation companies, distribution utilities and electric cooperatives.

Unlike in August, electricity spot prices in July were higher due to an "extended summer" and total supply constraints, which prompted the use of more expensive oil-based power plants.

Pangilinan said the current supply should be able to meet demand, even considering that power consumption would likely spike again by around 400 MW next month when Pacquiao faces Miguro Antonio Barrera in a match anticipated Oct. 6.

"We have enough [power] reserves," he said.

Gonzalez undergoes surgery

From page A1

sidetracked Murray.

The second source, who also had no permission to speak, described Garcia as a trusted employee of Gonzalez who has been with the secretary for many years.

Garcia is so close to the secretary that Gonzalez considers him as one of his children, the source said.

Dr. Enrique Ona, the NKTI executive director, confirmed in a phone interview that he handled the operation on Gonzalez but did not want to say what type of surgery it was.

"I will issue a medical bulletin on the procedure sometime tomorrow morning (Saturday)," he said.

For members of his staff, in explaining why Ona has not answered media queries about the surgery, said, "Doctors cannot issue a medical bulletin immediately after a transplant."

They said Ona would probably issue a medical bulletin on Monday.

"The doctor has been at the operating room since morning. It took several hours. He must be tired, that's why he did not grant any interview," one of Ona's staffers said.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera also hopes that Gonzalez was scheduled to undergo kidney transplant yesterday.

Devanadera said she visited Gonzalez a few days before his scheduled operation, and he appeared to be strong and was his casual self.

Even though he was in bed, his voice was shaky sounded hark, she said.

"I told him, manong, you have to get well because there is a lot of work waiting for me at the Office of the Solicitor General. I told him he's a fighter, and he said he'll fight," said Devanadera, who is also the solicitor general.

She said that when she visited him, there was already a donor for the transplant.

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said he wished Gonzalez well and was hoping for his speedy recovery.

Kidney transplant involves the implantation of a healthy kidney in a patient suffering from kidney failure.

Kidney failure in men can be caused by uncontrolled high blood pressure, infection or diabetes.

According to the US National Institute of Diabetes and the Digestive and Kidney Diseases Institutes of Health, over 90 percent of kidney recipients survive for at least a year after the operation. After a decade, about half of the transplanted kidneys remain functional.

The US agencies add that the possibility of survival is higher if the body's immune system limits rejection of the patient, rather than from someone unrelated to the patient or from recently deceased persons.

Recovery period for the donor is four to six weeks. The kidney recipient, on the other hand, has to be kept under observation in a hospital for a week after being discharged, the donor will require constant monitoring.

Organ rejection is a big risk in every transplant surgery. The patient's immune system identifies the new organ as a foreign object and tries to destroy it. This is why almost all recipients require life-long suppression of immune response.

Because of the suppression, the patient will be more at risk of contracting diseases. With reports from Cyrill L. Bonalbo, Inquirer Research

TRO issued against GMO rice product

THE QUEZON CITY REGIONAL Trial Court has issued a temporary restraining order on the application of Bayer Philippines Inc. to use its genetically modified rice LL62 for food, animal feed and processing.

According to the order, in part, Greenpeace, namely that the DENR "has not been thoroughly studied as to its risk and impact on health and environment."

The TRO enjoins the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Plant Industry from approving the application for 3000 Liberty Link Rice 62.

Greenpeace filed the petition last Aug. 22, questioning the lack of public notice and public consultation on GMO approvals by the DA and BPI, particularly in the case of Bayer LL62 application.

The group further contends that "the approval process for GMOs in the country is unconstitutional, violating Article II, sections 15 and 17 and Article III, sec. 7 of the 1987 Constitution (right to health, right to a sound ecology, and right to information on matters of public concern, respectively)."

In a statement, Greenpeace Southeast Asia food campaigner Daniel Ocampo said they filed the petition "because this application will put our rice under further control of greedy corporate interests."

Ocampo said subsidy politics, "we are reminding the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Plant Industry to uphold their mandate to ensure that our rice supply is safe to the environment and human health."

"If the application is approved, the entry of GMO rice in our country will irreversibly affect the future of our most important staple food," he added.

Amy R. Remo

S&R
MEMBERSHIP SHOPPING
SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER
SEPTEMBER 13-16, 2007
MEMBERS' TREAT!
CRAZY RUSH!
Incredibly exciting buys!
Special discounts!
Instant Freebies!
DON'T MISS IT!
Shop! Win! Save and even get rewarded for it! It's too good to be true. It happens only at your S&R, make sure you catch it!
NON-MEMBERS ARE INVITED TOO!
A 5% non-member fee will be charged to your purchase. Please see us for your One-Day Shopping Pass.
BUY ONE TAKE ONE ON SELECTED ITEMS
50%OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS
Store hours: 9 am to 9 pm
S&R MEMBERSHIP SHOPPING
Shopping Reinvented. Shopping Refined.
S&R The Fort
32nd Street, 5th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Philippines
Phone: 888-0640
S&R Alabang
West Gate Development, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Philippines
Phone: 771-0000
S&R Congressional
30 Congressional Avenue, Ramon Magsaysay, Bago Bantay, Quezon City, Philippines
Phone: 635-8888
S&R Baclaran
Aviation Avenue, Aseana Business Park Boulevard 2000, Baclaran, Paranaque, Philippines
Phone 853-0000
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4298, Series of 2007

Villar dares GMA to walk the talk on ZTE deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-AR- roso having canvassed an apparent intention to renew the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with ZTE Corp., Senate President Manuel Villar yesterday challenged her to walk the talk.

"A lot of persons are involved in this anomaly, but I am not saying who. It is important that the government establish that it is really against corruption by canceling deals such as this," Villar said in an interview with dzSL radio. "If the administration is really decisive and true, there shouldn't be deals like these."

Villar recalled that the controversial deal with Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) to build and operate the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 was voided by the Supreme Court because of corruption and violation of the antidummy law.

"In the case of Piatco, the President said it was important to fight corruption, which was why she did not open Item 51, but the case is different ... The $329 million is too much of a burden for our people. All our experts have stated that [another broadband project] is not needed, and all the experts say it is too expensive," he said.

Bad precedent

Villar warned that upholding the NBN deal could set a bad precedent.

"What if the President gets one [another] deal entered by economists, and the government has no money because it appropriates its commitments? Others will be encouraged to do the same because no one is getting punished. It's a different thing when someone gets penalized," he said. adding:

"I believe that the deal should be junked because that big a contract should have been published and reviewed extensively ... not like this, done in secret and the contract lost. We have become a laughingstock for others."

Senate hearing

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the committee on accountability of public officers and investigations, said the Senate would hold its first hearing on the NBN deal on Tuesday, with Commissioners on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and Jose de Venecia III invited to attend.

Sen. Pacifico Larson told dzMM radio that he was considering a call "canvassed votes" to testify against Abalos. He said the Senate was well within its rights to investigate the deal because a contract had been signed by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza in China.

Monetary Board

But Sen. Edgardo Angara said the document was not yet binding because it was merely a supplier contract and the senator is not important. Financial contract had yet to be approved by government state agencies.

He suggested that instead of investigating the contract, lawmakers should look into the anomalies of bribery and how the deal was crafted.

But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago told reporters that while the deal could be considered "a valid and effective contract," there was still a need for the Monetary Board to approve it. "Independent of this administration wishes between the two parties involved."

"Any anomaly in government transactions will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Senate, [it's just that] we can act the proper agency tasked with auditing because this is not a treaty in the usual sense. It is, in fact, a monetary transaction, which, under the Constitution, needs the approval of the Monetary Board," she said.

VILLAR

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo addresses the 75th anniversary of Women's Suffrage Philippines at the Philippine International Convention Center Friday. GERRY ORTIZ

JDV's son bares threats

From page A1

De Venecia said in a radio interview that Abalos had already arranged to bribe him with $50 million to back out of the NBN project.

He said the offer was during many meetings in Abalos' office at the Pitch-Work Golf and Country Club, of which Abalos is president, and at a meeting in a hotel in Shenzen, China.

De Venecia said Abalos had even told him, in a fit of rage, that he had tapped the businessman's phone.

'Stay abroad'

According to De Venecia, a threat was also relayed to him last week through his secretary.

He said a male caller had asked his secretary about his whereabouts. When told that De Venecia was abroad, the man reportedly said: "Pakisabi nung mayor sabihan niya ... ang mata niya. Maganda ang mata niya. Ayaw ko siyang makita dito. Ako ang bahala sa kanya." (Please tell the mayor to watch his eyes. I don't want to see them here. I'll take care of him.)

Asked who Abalos treated in terms of rage, then he had tapped the businessman's phone.

DE VENECIA III

MENDOZA

'Stay abroad'

According to De Venecia, a threat was also relayed to him last week through his secretary.

He said a male caller had asked his secretary about his whereabouts. When told that De Venecia was abroad, the man reportedly said: "Pakisabi nung mayor sabihan niya ... ang mata niya. Maganda ang mata niya. Ayaw ko siyang makita dito. Ako ang bahala sa kanya." (Please tell the mayor to watch his eyes. I don't want to see them here. I'll take care of him.)

Asked who Abalos treated in terms of rage, then he had tapped the businessman's phone.

'Stay abroad'

According to De Venecia, a threat was also relayed to him last week through his secretary.

He said a male caller had asked his secretary about his whereabouts. When told that De Venecia was abroad, the man reportedly said: "Pakisabi nung mayor sabihan niya ... ang mata niya. Maganda ang mata niya. Ayaw ko siyang makita dito. Ako ang bahala sa kanya." (Please tell the mayor to watch his eyes. I don't want to see them here. I'll take care of him.)

He said he only learns that Mendoza and Abalos were "very good friends" and were "pulling buddies."

De Venecia said that except for one occasion, Mendoza was not part of the meetings with Abalos in Pitch-Work, or in Shenzen, where the Comelec chair supposedly urged him to back out of the project in order to clear the way for ZTE.

Earlier, De Venecia said he took the chance to speak with Mendoza about the ZTE deal sometime in March, when the secretary visited his father's house to support the Speaker to endorse Abalos as one who was running in the 2007 elections.

He said this was after the incident when Abalos thanked investors at him for what he supposedly told ZTE officials in phone conversations that Abalos had purportedly tapped.

According to De Venecia, Mendoza offered to arrange a reconciliation meeting between him and Abalos. Mendoza came for that meeting with Abalos a few days later in Pitch-Work.

Anticlimax

Mendoza has managed, with plenty of help from two administration lawmakers, to escape grilling at the House budget hearing on the NBN project.

Right at the outset, Mendoza said it would be "futile and embarrassing" for him to discuss the issue in view of the subpoena power of the Supreme Court and the Ombudsman.

"Much as I wish to give my full cooperation and position on this matter, I regret that ... we in the DOTC are bound by the sub judice rule (no pending cases)," he told opposition Rep. Satur Ocampo on Thursday night.

Mendoza's refusal to talk about the deal cornered by Ocampo's ZTE Corp. was an unlikely plea for Rodriguez and his fellow members of the minority bloc, who had waited all day for the "meat of the issue."

The secretary did not appear until around 7:45 p.m., when the committee on appropriations had completed the preliminaries hearing on the proposed 2008 budgets of the Department of Foreign Affairs and of Trade and Industry.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila had earlier refused to discuss the NBN project, telling lawmakers that they should be quizzing Mendoza instead.

Favila and Mendoza were summoned by the House by a "unanimous vote" on Wednesday. But Favila was purportedly barred by President Macapagal-Arroyo from testifying, and the chamber resolved to send it to Favila instead.

'Basic facts'

Rodriguez accused Mendoza that the committee would not tackle the merits of the case. He said the questioners would limit him to "basic facts," such as whether there was indeed a contract with ZTE for the NBN project.

"We will not discuss ... whether it is illegal or not. It's limited from the outset," Rodriguez, a former dean of the San Sebastian College Law School, told Mendoza.

De Venecia Mendoza replied: "The contract is part of the petitions. My legal counsel was telling me that anything about the contract I should refrain from answering."

He said that if it was anyone's solution, his camp was prepared to request the Supreme Court to compel him and his fellow respondents from the sub judice rule. He said the DOTC was willing to "explain and defend the concept, purpose and benefits of the NBN project not only before the Supreme Court but also in other forums where clarification and transparency of the project will be required."

The prompted Rodriguez to retort: "Should you prefer that you move the committee when you can already answer questions on the project?"

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman rose to remind Rodriguez that there were "other members of the committee with questions relative to the budget of the [DOTC]."

'Premature apprehension'

From that point, Rodriguez had to contend with Lagman and Quezon Rep. Jesse Cua, another administration stalwart, for an opportunity to grill Mendoza.

Cua is to replace Lagman as committee chair in the second half of the 14th Congress as part of a "power sharing" scheme brokered by the Speaker.

Lagman reminded Rodriguez that according to the account of Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, the NBN project had no allocation in the proposed FY 2007 budget.

"We have not provided any funding support for this project, and we don't intend to do so for 2008," he said.

Rodriguez expressed the fear that with the NBN project being part of an executive agreement with a Chinese firm, Congress might end up shouldering the cost by virtue of the "automatic debt servicing" in the annual budget.

Lagman replied: "Your apprehension is premature. There is no debt service to talk about."

Cua backed Lagman, chiding Rodriguez that the NBN project was still "several steps away from the appropriation process."

"This being the case, there is no budgetary implication to talk about," Cua said. "I would like to agree with the statement of the chair that it's premature [to talk about budgetary implications and debt servicing]."

Soon after a rebuffed Rodriguez exited his cave, Cua approached him and squeezed his shoulder. With a report from Rina Jimenez-David

US ambassador stresses need for transparency

By Christine O. Avendaño

US AMBASSADOR KRISTIE Kenney concedes the need for transparency in business transactions, saying this had always been the position taken by the United States.

Kenney made the statement when asked what she thought of how the National Broadband Network (NBN) controversy had mobilized despite the fact that earlier approval by the Arroyo administration and by hardly came into an agreement with China's ZTE Corp.

Speaking with reporters after a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of Women's Suffrage Philippines at the Philippine International Convention Center, which was to be attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Kenney said to dodge questions about her April 20 letter to then Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

"Conversations and letters are confidential between" she said. "But we always encourage transparency. In [business dealings, so that dealings are conducted in open and transparent manner and benefit all."

She added: "Other than that, I am not going to comment."

American interest

Kenney wrote first on the day Mr. Arroyo flew to Beijing, China, to witness the signing of the $329-million contract with ZTE.

In her letter, she expressed the US government's interest in the NBN project and asked the Arroyo administration to "take time to carefully review and consider the multiple expressions of interest that had been submitted, including those involving American corporations."

"As in all other government procurement projects, we believe open competition and transparency are in the best interest of all," she said.

Mr. Arroyo's economic managers said the other day that there was still no contract for the NBN project.

They said the Philippines had only signed a supplier's agreement with ZTE, which did not have the effect of an executive agreement.

They said that for the contract to have such an effect, a loan agreement between the Philippine and Chinese governments should be firmed up.

"We will not discuss ... whether it is illegal or not. It's limited from the outset," Rodriguez, a former dean of the San Sebastian College Law School, told Mendoza.

De Venecia Mendoza replied: "The contract is part of the petitions. My legal counsel was telling me that anything about the contract I should refrain from answering."

He said that if it was anyone's solution, his camp was prepared to request the Supreme Court to compel him and his fellow respondents from the sub judice rule. He said the DOTC was willing to "explain and defend the concept, purpose and benefits of the NBN project not only before the Supreme Court but also in other forums where clarification and transparency of the project will be required."

The prompted Rodriguez to retort: "Should you prefer that you move the committee when you can already answer questions on the project?"

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman rose to remind Rodriguez that there were "other members of the committee with questions relative to the budget of the [DOTC]."

'Premature apprehension'

From that point, Rodriguez had to contend with Lagman and Quezon Rep. Jesse Cua, another administration stalwart, for an opportunity to grill Mendoza.

Cua is to replace Lagman as committee chair in the second half of the 14th Congress as part of a "power sharing" scheme brokered by the Speaker.

Lagman reminded Rodriguez that according to the account of Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, the NBN project had no allocation in the proposed FY 2007 budget.

"We have not provided any funding support for this project, and we don't intend to do so for 2008," he said.

Rodriguez expressed the fear that with the NBN project being part of an executive agreement with a Chinese firm, Congress might end up shouldering the cost by virtue of the "automatic debt servicing" in the annual budget.

Lagman replied: "Your apprehension is premature. There is no debt service to talk about."

Cua backed Lagman, chiding Rodriguez that the NBN project was still "several steps away from the appropriation process."

"This being the case, there is no budgetary implication to talk about," Cua said. "I would like to agree with the statement of the chair that it's premature [to talk about budgetary implications and debt servicing]."

Soon after a rebuffed Rodriguez exited his cave, Cua approached him and squeezed his shoulder. With a report from Rina Jimenez-David

Ridiculous, says Abalos of wiretap rap

From page A1

ABALOS

Chinese firm ZTE Corp.—which won the contract—that Abalos was the biggest obstacle to the deal because of his alleged demand for a kickback.

He said he could it was from that advice told him that he (Abalos) had wiretapped his conversations with ZTE officials.

ZTE eventually bagged the NBN deal, breaking Amsterdam-Holland Inc., which De Venecia is a majority shareholder.

"I find it ridiculous," Wiretapping?" Abalos said in a phone interview. "You know better than that. What are we qualified to? He should himself in credible."

Abalos displayed the series of allegations against him by De Venecia and other people, saying: "Even we have to believe.

De Venecia's motives

Then, my sexual perverts. And then my influence with cabinet officials. And now this," he said.

Rep. Carlos Padilla Jr., elected a Comelec official—a newspaper columnist claimed was Abalos—of receiving sexual favors in return for brokering the NBN deal between the Philippine government and ZTE.

Asked what he thought was De Venecia's intention in coming out with his affidavit, Abalos said he did not know.

"I don't want to speculate. I don't like speculations. I don't know his motives," he said.

Appeal to public and media

The NBN news website quoted radio station dzST as reporting that Abalos said De Venecia could have been torn at him after all if not hamper call the deal.

According to Abalos, De Venecia's testimony drew people what kind of a man De Venecia is. He also said De Venecia's statements should be scrutinized.

"I am appealing to the public and the media to be very careful with his statements," he said.

Abalos also said he remained unaffected by De Venecia's claims but that his family, especially his wife, was taking the attacks hard.

Hello, Garci scandal

"You take it in stride. But my wife could not sleep. She doesn't want to read the papers anymore. I understand. I'm the breadwinner again of your paper," he said.

The Comelec was embroiled in a previous wiretapping controversy after one of its officials, Romeo Efferlan, was linked to the so-called "Hello, Garci" tape scandal.

The tape supposedly contained a recording of phone conversations between Garci and President Macapagal-Arroyo on rigging the results of the 2004 presidential election.

Mr. Arroyo and Garci have denied cheating in the election.

Following the uproar generated by the Garci tape, Abalos said he would beg all calls from public officials that he would get during the May 2007 midterm election.

Senators not impressed on Jpepa

By Doris Z. Pisa-Bungcat

FINANCE AND TRADE officials failed to impress senators on what the Philippines would gain in economic benefits if the Senate ratifies the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa), as public hearings into the proposed free trade agreement opened yesterday.

The chairs of the committees handling the hearings said they were unimpressed by the government's presentation of potential Japanese foreign direct investments (FDIs) for the next three years.

"It appears that the government officials concerned are having a hard time justifying concurrence with Jpepa," said Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the foreign relations committee which is taking the lead on the hearings.

Skeptical

She said she and the other senators who sat at the three-hour hearing were "very skeptical" about the government's recommendation for entering into the treaty.

"The basic question is, what will the Philippines gain by signing the treaty in [exchange for the] concessions we are making. This was not clear this morning," she said.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the trade and commerce committee, said the Senate would have rejected the treaty based on what he heard yesterday.

"I am underwhelmed by the presentation of the government.... They were not able to show what the benefits to us are compared to the gains Japan would get. They are making purely technical assumptions," he said.

The Department of Trade and Industry, which headed the treaty negotiations with Japan, said the country would gain about P222 billion in Japanese FDIs from 2007 to 2010 if the Jpepa is ratified.

It also claimed that the instrument would result in 300,000 jobs and P32 billion in tax revenues.

Theoretical

But Roxas said the projected increase in investments was "theoretical."

"With or without the treaty, they've been coming here in droves.... So just because we have a treaty doesn't mean we'll have this money coming into the country," he said.

He said he found it "problematic" that under the treaty, the Philippines agreed to grant "national treatment" to Japanese investors, meaning they, like nationals from Philippine businesses.

Santiago said the government officials failed to show whether the country would gain more if it agrees to the treaty, since Japan is already the country's biggest source of foreign investments, the second biggest trading partner and largest source of official development assistance (ODA).

When questioned by Sen. Richard Gordon, Trade Undersecretary Elmer Hernandez said he noted their projected increase in Japanese investments were based on investment "leads" or "missions" where Japanese investors are invited to invest.

Gordon said based on his experience as former chair of the Subic Bay Management Authority (SBMA), "very few" pledges to invest actually materialize.

The senators found the analyses Jpepa group to be better prepared than the government officials.

Given up too much

Lawyer Golda Benjamin, spokesperson of the Junk Jpepa Coalition, said the country "has given up too much" compared to other countries in the region that have entered into economic partnership agreements with Japan.

She claimed that under the treaty, the country gave up the right to compel Japanese investors to transfer technology and to hire a minimum number of local workers.

Plant more 'malunggay,' gov't urged

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

FOLLOWING THE RECENT discovery of malunggay's power in boosting male potency, Sen. Loren Legarda is urging the government to make home vallcult among its priority crop for propagation.

Legarda, who credits her morning habit of taking malunggay soup for her youthful good looks, said: "The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Science and Technology should quickly draw up a plan to [massively] encourage the cultivation and use of malunggay. Congress can then support the plan with an extra budget, if necessary."

Legarda said the Department of Education should also integrate malunggay in the government's feeding program for school children.

"This is an inexpensive way for us to enrich the household diet as well as the school feeding program, and put in check pervasive malnutrition among children," she added.

"Malunggay can be planted and grown just about anywhere, is cheap and in some areas, even free."

Interest in malunggay has shot up after a study by experts from the Bureau of Plant Industry showed that a steady diet of this fruit boosts the sperm count of men which improves the chances of fertilizing an egg.

Younger-looking

For women, Legarda said that making gay lead to youthful-looking skin as it improves female skin tone.

Malunggay was also found to be rich in vitamins C and A, iron, and high density lipoprotein or good cholesterol.

Citing the BPI report, Legarda said that malunggay leaves, unique for nature, contain the calcium equivalent of four glasses of milk, the vitamin C of seven oranges, the potassium of three bananas, three times the iron of spinach, four times the vitamin A in carrots and two times the protein in milk.

Malunggay, or "Moringa" in English, is a popular tree that grows in the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, India, West Africa, and most recently, in the US. Many Asians consume both the leaves and fruits of the tree, much like spinach and asparagus.

The study showed that malunggay also helps purify water.

Search on for Young Market Masters

THE SEARCH FOR THE BEST FILIPINO marketers and entrepreneurs who can serve as role models to the youth has been launched.

The Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA), organized as an advocacy project of Mamanski and Fielders Inc., is now on its third year.

It seeks to recognize achievers aged 35 years and below, who excel in marketing and entrepreneurship, and whose achievements encourage and inspire young people to be "innovative entrepreneurs and outstanding brand-builders," said Chipin Ocampo-Go, president of Mamanski and Fielders.

Among the categories included in the search are account management, advocacy marketing, brand management, business development, customer development, marketing communication, and events, promotion and corporate social marketing.

Entries will be accepted until Oct. 30. The application form may be downloaded or filled out online at www.youngmarketmasters.com. Self-nominations are accepted.

For inquiries, call Alice or Gail at 722-3133, 727-7141 or 0918-8014686, e-mail mf@phmamanski.net or visit www.mamanski.net.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health

Rustom's gay ...

From page A1

The moment was extra special, he said, because the trophy was presented to him by his brother, Hubbi Puddhi, a previous winner of the same award for "La Visa Loca."

After announcing that Rustom had been in a tie with veteran actor Mark Gil—who was cited for his portrayal of a disillusioned tabloid reporter in the independent film "Batanda"—Bobbi promptly approached his brother and hugged him.

"I didn't know that Bobbi would be the presenter," Rustom said. "In fact, I didn't know he was here. I can't wait to see my family." Rustom admitted that he had not spoken with his mother, former actress Eva Castro, for quite a while. He had been skipping family reunions, he added, to avoid "confrontations."

GINA Pareno wins best actress for "Kubrador"

BUSTOS Publio and Mark Gil (to be Unao best actor)

Surprise party

Rustom was visibly elated when a female reporter told him about Bobbi announcing that their family was planning a "surprise" to celebrate the victory. It is Rustom's first-ever acting trophy.

It is also Gil's first Unao best actor award, although he has won for supporting roles in the past, including the acclaimed 1982 film, "Relasyon (Ipot, Puputi't pulit)."

Gil's son, Sid Lucero, was also a nominee for Best Actor, as star of the independent film, "Tuason." Other nominees in the category were Piolo Agustin for "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," Alchris Galura for "Sintad sa Puting Bulay" Mario Magallona for "Refandes" and Jeri Pangan for "Tolod ng Dasi."

The internationally acclaimed "Kubrador" took a total of five trophies—Best Picture, Best Actress for Gina Pareño, Best Director for Jeffrey Jeturian, Best Production Design for Leo Abaya and Best Cinematography for Roberto Yñiguez.

Prestigious win

Rustom's win hardly came as a surprise—she had won the same recognition in several international film festivals. However, Pareño told the Inquirer that this one, also for Star Unao, was special. "This is prestigious ... Every single ... supposedly ... recognition due to kaibi' mas memorable pa ang career ko sa Unao (I'm glad I got this, even though my career is older than the Unao)."

Other Best Actress nominees were Amalia Fuentes for "Manoro," Charo De Peralta and Angel Aquino for "Kubrador," Andrea del Rosario in "Ora Mismo Paglipad" and Judy Ann Santos for "Tanod, Kanab, Kanalo," and Manuel Sottata for "Isang Sigaw."

"It director's dream" was how Best Director nominee Jeffrey Jeturian described Pareño's performance in "Kubrador" as a jaw-dropping collective. He told the Inquirer that "Kubrador's" victory was also for all independent filmmakers.

Indeed, several other independent films were recognized in this year's awards:

Best screenplay

Chris Vichaya and Connie Macatuno won Best Screenplay for "Home and Jobet," a fresh take on the travails of lesbian relationships. Jobet Yatco bagged the Best Editing plum for "Todo Todo Teros," an intriguing story of terrorism and political security as they affect ordinary people's lives. Ronald de Asis took the Best Musical trophy for "Tuloy ng Init," a peek into the rise of one of the country's leading rock bands, The Dawn.

The independent circuit likewise became the route for Roland Bonoll to reach his own career milestone. He won Best Supporting Actor for "Home and Jobet," over the likes of Soliman Cruz ("Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo"), Dennings Landicho ("Balweather"), Allan Paule and Lauren Sowers ("Kubrador"), Epy Quizon ("Batanda"), Ping Medina ("Tuloy ng Dasi") and Jerbie Aduana ("Tuloy ng Kasay").

Meryll Soriano was proclaimed Best Supporting Actress for the film "Sintenda." She wasn't around to receive the award, as she had just given birth. Her uncle, Mel Martinez, went up the stage in her behalf. Soriano was up against Gloria Jimz and Gina Pareño ("Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo"), Pepe Smith ("Una Kay Tatertenah Ta Mowah"), Agot Isidro ("Tolod ng Dasi"), Lisa Lorena and Yuki Kimura ("Tuloy ng Kasay") and Tessie Tomas ("Home and Jobet").

This year's Natatanging Gawad Urian Award was bestowed on Marilou Diaz-Perez Alaeda for her outstanding contributions to the local film industry.

'Inday' Bagan, 75

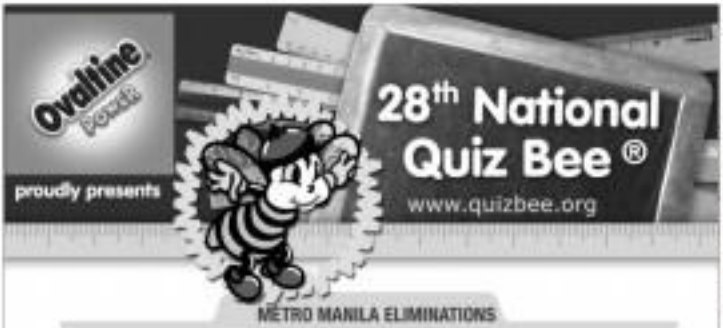
MA. OLIVIA "INDAY" JAVILLANA BAGAN of Davao City died on Sept. 12, 2007 at the age of 75.

She is the mother of Inquirer Visayas columnist Joji Bagan Bass.

She is survived by her children Joji and George, Jing-Edgar and Jollet, Dr. Rene and Lilay, Marie and Jonathan, Ms. Bella Socorro and Dennis; and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, J. Camus Street, Davao City.

Interment is on Sept. 16, 2007 at the Davao Memorial Park, Matina, Davao City after a 1 p.m. Mass at the San Pedro Church, Juan Subdivision, Davao City.



METRO MANILA ELIMINATIONS

SM City Manila & Pasay City Schools — Sat., Sept. 01, 2007
Quezon City & Makati Schools — Sat., Sept. 15, 2007
Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Parañaque & Las Piñas Schools — Sat., Sept. 29, 2007
Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina & San Juan City Schools — Sat., Oct. 13, 2007
Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas & Valenzuela City Schools — Sat., Oct. 20, 2007
METRO MANILA REGIONAL FINALS — Saturday NOV. 17, 2007

SUBJECT CATEGORIES/LEVELS

1- Collegiate Natural Information and International Category
Tertiary Level
2nd – 4th year college
2- High School Science and Technology Category
Secondary Level
3rd – 4th year high school

3- Elementary Makabansa (Phil. History, Culture & Values)
Intermediate Level
Grades 4 – 5
4- Elementary Mathematics Category
Intermediate Level
Grades 4 – 5

PROVINCIAL ELIMINATIONS

Provincial Division Eliminations: September 1-30, 2007

Provincial Regional Eliminations: October 1-28, 2007

NATIONAL QUIZ BEE SUMMIT

November 29 to December 2, 2007*

*The Summit of the Super Quiz Bee is a four (4) day all expense paid trip in some cool resort, seminars and fellowships for the 28th regional champions and teacher - coaches from the seventeen (17) regions of the country. The National Quiz Finals will be held within this said duration and made open to the public.

4 NATIONAL CHAMPION STUDENTS
Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Trophy
Quiz Bee Gold Medallion of Excellence
Php 100,000.00 worth of Philamlife Insurance
Php 10,000.00 worth of Milare Achieve Education Plan
32 vol. Time Life Illustrated Encyclopedia of Science & Nature
Multimedia computer system from Philippine Daily Inquirer
Mobile Phone from Ovaltine Power
Gift Packages from Partner Sponsors

4 NATIONAL CHAMPION TEACHERS
Pres. Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo Trophy
P 100,000 worth of Philamlife Insurance
Time Life Books
Gift Packages from Partner Sponsors

Sponsored by:

Uni · Time Life · Philam Life · Philam Plans · Yehey! · Inquirer · Inquirer · 558 · Maybank · Boone · Sibs Publishing House · Jolly · Fujifilm · JobsDB.com

A project of Quiz Bee Foundation in cooperation with DepED

HONOR guards carry a casket containing the mingled remains of three American soldiers who died in Iraq during a group burial at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on Thursday.

Bush orders partial pullout of US troops

From page A1

PRESIDENT BUSH points to the Oval Office chair after addressing his country on his strategy for Iraq on Thursday at the White House.

we can begin moving troops some home," he said in a prime time televised speech. "Our more successful we are, the more American troops can return home."

The speech was the first time since the start of the war—and a full years ago—that Bush outlined a plan for troop reductions, to bring levels down from the current high of 169,000. He held out the prospect of more reductions but committed only to a plan that would withdraw by next July the additional combat units he ordered there in January.

Insisting the unpopular war would still be won, Bush said whoever succeeded him at the White House would likely inherit the conflict and warned against giving up on a fledgling ally that was "fighting for its survival."

With most public opinion polls showing the US public to opposed new to-ease in his strategy, and his Democratic foes clamoring for a withdrawal, Bush defiantly said he would build "an enduring relationship" with Iraq.

Iraqi leaders "understand that their success will require US political, economic and security engagement that extends beyond my presidency" said Bush, whose term ends in January 2009.

Enduring ties

"These Iraqi leaders have asked for an enduring relationship with America. And we are ready to begin building that relationship in a way that protects our interests in the region and requires many fewer American troops," he said.

The speechwriter said that he had accepted advice from the US commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, that he should bring some 5,700 troops home by Christmas and a total of 21,500 combat troops out by mid-2008.

That would leave about 130,000 troops in Iraq, roughly the number in December 2006, nine months before he escalated US force levels in a thus far failed effort to give Iraq's leaders room to work key political compromises.

Bush also clearly acknowledged he was not satisfied with the pace of Iraqi political reforms that Washington viewed as critical to stopping sectarian entity and quelling sectarian violence and urged leaders in Baghdad to do more.

"The government has not met its own legislative benchmarks," said Bush, who directed a message to Iraq's people that "you must demand that your leaders make the tough decisions needed to achieve reconciliation."

Still he warned that "efforts by Iran and Syria to undermine that government must end," while predicting that "a free Iraq will counter the destructive ambitions of Iran," which he accuses of trying to develop nuclear weapons.

Democratic opposition

The president's plan came as the US Congress was poised to take up Democratic efforts to end the war and as presidential contenders faced tough questions on what they would do if elected in November 2008.

Democratic Sen. Jack Reed, giving his party's response, said it was "time to change course" and urged support for "a plan to responsibly and rapidly begin a redeployment of our troops in Iraq."

Democrats lack the votes to set a timetable for ending the war, but hope to secure Republican support to limit the US role in Iraq to battling insurgents and Islamic militants, training the Iraqi army and preserving US presence and installations.

They also hope to ensure that troops spend as much time at home as they do de-

ployed in the war zone—an opportunity to limit the number of troops available for deployment.

Democrats trying to succeed Bush swiftly criticized his announcement.

"I continue to implore the president to change course, bring our troops home faster, and end this war responsibly as soon as possible," said Sen. Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Party's front runner.

Republican backing

Republican leaders defended the president's strategy.

"Congress is faced with a stark choice: either rally behind the proven, responsible strategy set forth by General Petraeus and bring our troops home after victory or demand an irresponsible, precipitous withdrawal that will force our troops to leave in defeat," said House Republican Minority Leader John Boehner, who has just visited Iraq.

Bush's announcement came after two days of testimony by Petraeus and the US ambassador in Baghdad, Ryan Crocker, before the White House defense and foreign policy teams and on the war on Friday.

Petraeus acknowledged in testimony to lawmakers that the three-down reflected the end of the "surge" which ordered in January but White House officials have couched it as the natural response to "progress" in Iraq.

"We've got a long way to go. It's very hard. We're realistic about it," Bush spokeswoman Dana Perino said.

Bush made only a passing reference to a setback to US efforts—the bombing that killed a top Iraqi Sunni sheikh, Sattar Abu Risscha, who spearheaded a campaign against al-Qaida in his native Anbar province of Anbar.

"In response, a fellow Sunni leader declared: 'We are determined to strike back and continue our work.' And as they do, they can count on the continued support of the United States," he said. AFE VFT

CONDO
P9,000/mo.
0917-8881770
0915-5467537
0915-3081382
0915-7038534

SAINT MARY'S
College of San Juan

PHILIPPINE DA

Joma on Dutch jail: I felt like living in a toilet

From page A1

Netherlands, committed the offenses he is charged with, in defiance and clear cooperation with the perpetrators in the Philippines."

The court decision does not preclude him from being prosecuted on murder charges. The court only rules on the request to keep someone in custody, while it is the public prosecutor's office that decides on whether or not to prosecute.

"My cell was 3.5 meters long by 2.5 meters wide. It was 3.5 meters high. It was cramped. I felt like living in a toilet," Sison told Manila reporters in a phone patch interview.

Reminiscent of martial law

He said the military conditions were broken only by five hours of interrogation every day.

"During my confinement, I remembered those five years that I was placed in solitary confinement under military custody (during martial law)," he said.

The phone patch interview with Sison took place at the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) headquarters in Quezon City.

Sison was accused of ordering the killings of Rolando Kintanar in January 2003 and Arturo Tabara, along with his wife Lean Alejandro Ong, in September 2004 in Quezon City.

He said these were "trumped-up charges."

With his release, Sison said he gained "some confidence" in the Dutch legal system.

"I have the opportunity to prove my innocence and maintain so to benefit from this plea. I feel somehow vindicated in choosing the Netherlands as my place of refuge from persecution in the Philippines," he said.

Kintanar's widow

Sison said he was released because the prosecution failed to provide "direct evidence" linking him to the killings and said he was confident the case against him would be thrown out by the court.

He also said he would file counterclaims against the Dutch authorities over his illegal arrest soon his case was over.

Sison has presented appeals for his release on the terror lists of the United States and some European countries.

Kintanar's widow, Jay Jaurigui, could not be reached for the Dutch court's decision.

"I understand the Dutch will not be sorry," she said in a text message. "The case against Joma collapses and I can wait for the verdict no matter how long and hard it takes. The rule of law, courts and justice must prevail in the end."

Not yet off the hook

While de Roos's spokesperson for the national prosecutor's office in the Netherlands, said Sison was not yet off the hook.

De Roos said the decisions of the court simply meant that there was no reason to further keep Sison in prison custody.

"But the prosecutor's office, the investigation will continue. Sison is still a suspect," he (de Roos) said.

But he says "he is free to go wherever he wants to go," he said.

A Dutch court official who spoke on the keyword on the phone on condition of anonymity said the "no reasons" decision clearly focused on the questions of whether there was sufficient evidence to keep Sison in detention beyond 14 days.

Respected legal system

"The reasons merely refer to it's right to keep someone in detention without looking at the evidence," the official said.

Asked for comment on the Dutch court's decision, US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney said: "The Dutch have a very well respected legal judicial system and to respect we as well with Philippine authorities. I think we'll let them sort out what this means and what next steps to take."

Talking on ANC network, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said: "What's happening in the Netherlands is ... purely a Dutch initiative."

"It's inevitable for us to make a judgment as to what is happening there because the process is continuing," Gonzales said.

The military said it would continue to strengthen its case that Sison had ordered the killings of his own rivals.

Brawner added: "does not remove the fact that the communist leadership knows something about these purging operations," said Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, Armed Forces spokesperson.

The chief of the Philippine National Police's Directorate for Operations, Director Wilfredo Cayetano, said they have not desired by the release of Sison. "But we respect the decision of

...ht a walk-out by congressmen and supporters at the headquarters in ...ch Thursday. ...

JOSE PAL Senate ambassador Jose Avelino de Leon shortly after his ...ation from patrols Thursday in Pio Duran.

...h court (CA) he said.

...ent standards

...ez is also said: "The Dutch ... ...ers might not have seen that ... was a deliberate action by ... in ordering the killings ... standards or elements of ... are different."

The Commission Party of the Philippines (CPP) lauded the release of Jaime.

In a statement, commissar spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said: "The rule of law has duly acted to restore against it, ...ce was severely deplored and ... ...ambassador is called to exercise the Dutch judges."

In a rally in Manila, some 300 members of the militant Anakbayan and League of the Filipino Students hailed the release of Jaime.

The demonstrators gathered in front of the University of the Philippines before marching to Mendiola.

"Professor Jaime's release is a victory for all freedom-loving people and the national democratic movement as a whole," they said in a statement. With signs bearing the photo of Jaime, Christine D. Andres, Nikko Reyes, Rowie Argel, Rizal S. Santos, Pablo T. Muller Jr., Reporter Heather Lusty and AFP

...ority for the Philippines ... ...ready to lay down their arms and resume peace talks only if its government agrees to undertaking reforms, chief military ... Gilbert in the Netherlands said on Thursday.

"If they want a ceasefire, we should have a clear agreement on principles on [our 10 points]," Jose Maria Sison, the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, told Reuters in an interview.

He said the proposals include land reform, ending "economic crisis and endless corruption, canceling the Philippine foreign debt and giving minority groups ... representation in government and bureaucracy.

The New People's Army (NPA) has waged a guerrilla rebellion since 1969, drawing growth in the rural areas of one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia.

Peace talks brokered by Norway collapsed in August 2004 when the United States and some Western European states put the NPA and Sison on terrorism blacklists.

"[The Philippine government should adopt social and economic reforms before ... ...ation can end," said Sison.

"I have nothing to do with any position I will conduct my legal defense and further ... ...my career," said Sison.

Referring to the Senate ... ...government's offer of ... for rebels, Sison said: "It is a farce." Reuters

Sison: Reds ready to resume talks if ...

ISSN 0116-2442 INQUIRER MICA 2006 279

OPINION

Email feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website www.inquirer.net/opinion

Text us your feedback: inquirer (no name) msg (message) to 2367 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Stickup

ON THE SAME DAY THAT THE SANDIGANBAYAN ended the trial of the century by sentencing her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, to life in prison for plunder, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the creation of a new body to help curb graft and corruption in government. The President told the Bishops-Ulama Conference in Malacañang Wednesday that she had created the Procurement Transparency Group to monitor procurement for public projects. The inter-agency body, chaired by the Department of Budget and Management, will have representatives from civil society. It will monitor procurement biddings and report anomalies to agency heads as well as the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit. Its main purpose is "to ensure transparency and good governance in our massive public investments," Ms Arroyo said. A separate group will "also harness civil society and the private sector in ensuring that public works projects serve the needs and objectives for which they are undertaken, and contract terms and timetables are complied with."

EDITORIAL

If the twin announcements were meant to signal a fresh resolve to combat graft in government, the President herself diluted the message with her other statements in the same forum. "We must be a government that honors contracts and agreements that go through the required processes, despite media attacks," she said. "We live by the rule of law." Later when asked by reporters if that policy included the ZTE contract to set up a national broadband network (NBN), Ms Arroyo reiterated that "as long as the contract goes through the required processes, we are required to comply" with its terms.

It was clear as day that she was referring to the $329-million contract with the Chinese firm ZTE. No other contract, whether involving foreign or local governments or companies, has been the subject of so much "media attacks" in recent months. And "transparent" is the last thing anyone can say about that contract or the processes that went before and after it was signed—from the deliberations on the project to the negotiations and the decision to award it to ZTE.

To this day, top administration officials continue to dissemble and mislead the public about the NBN project and how ZTE bagged the contract. They cannot even agree if there is a contract or not. Some Cabinet officials say what has been signed is a memorandum of agreement or understanding, but others call it a contract. Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri, who used to head the National Economic and Development Authority, says there is a "supplier's contract," but it is only a "prospective contract." If that means it is not the real thing, then why did Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza sign it? And why did the President have to leave her husband, who had just undergone a delicate operation, to witness the signing in Boao, China? If the contract is "prospective," it is probably because the plans and specifications are not spelled out so that no one can tell exactly what the country is getting for $329 million or if that would be the final price.

When pressed for answers, most Cabinet members point to Mendoza, saying the NBN is his baby and he knows it best. But Mendoza refuses to make the contract public and he doesn't want to talk—not to the press, not to the members of Congress. The only talking he has done recently was to the Cabinet where he supposedly explained the project in detail, including how it would save the government billions of pesos a year.

Funny that Mendoza bothered to do that. It was like preaching to the converted or at least to those who must act like true believers, given the President's keen interest in seeing the NBN project through. But it is not the Cabinet that has been asking questions, it is the Filipino public. Does Mendoza think he owes it to the Cabinet to explain, but not to the Filipino people?

The Arroyo administration wants the Filipino people to approve a contract and pay for a project they know very little about, and it has the temerity to talk about transparency and good governance? In any other place, they would call this secret, rotten deal a stinking stickup.

Publisher Marixi Prieto
Editor in Chief/Chief Executive Officer Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joel Ma. D. Mercado
Associate Editors Ellen Tordesillas, Ramon A. Gonzalez
Associate Editor for Readership Rosalie A. Gatdula
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, News Desk Nina R. Terrazola
Opinion Editor Juan V. Mercado
National Editor Philip Pinili, R. Rosario Mendoza Jr.
Features Chief Editor Joyce Arrieta Pilo
Editor at Consultant Armando Doronila
Chief Photographer Rogelio V. Gamboa Jr.
Art & Design Director Lynet J. A. Villamin

Board Chairman Hermie R. Prieto
President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Edgardo R. Rosario
Vice President for Advertising Felix R. Alarcio
Vice President for Finance Ernesto Sison R. Tan

Readers' Advocate Jaime Kalaw Tayo

All rights reserved. Except as provided by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, stored in a database or retrieval system, or transmitted or otherwise made available online without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Erap's conviction and the rule of law

PUBLIC LIVES

Ramon Farid

IT WAS INDEED A HISTORIC MOMENT in our nation's life—the first time a former president has ever been convicted for an offense committed while he was in office. Because of the manner of the accused, we are led to think that, finally, the rule of law in our society has prevailed. I'm afraid that expectation is premature.

The legal system of any society is wrongheaded not so much when it succeeds in putting the high and mighty on trial, but when the law is applied consistently and predictably over time. We know there is rule of law when people have stable notions of what is legal and illegal, and when those who respect what laws are rewarded.

Does the Sandiganbayan verdict on the Joseph "Erap" Estrada plunder case affirm the rule of law? Or does it only affirm in the public mind that rule of law is something we can hope for up yet on that notwithstanding the fact that he was a former president, he was for charged and convicted precisely because there was a prevailing tension purely removing him from the presidency? These are lingering doubts.

What if some foreign businessman, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was installed in the presidency after a civilian-military coup, drew from Erap's trial and conviction? Would it deter her from using the prerogatives of her office to commit similar offenses? Or would it merely make her devise the costs of being out of power? Would it make her more respectful of the law, or would it only stiffen her belief in the primacy of power?

Because Ms Arroyo's presidency has a fixed term, it is natural to think she has no choice but to relinquish her power in 2010. So no sensible there will be no constitutional revision to allow her to continue in office as president or as prime minister beyond 2010. Still, means is not possible, who has come to power in a controversial way and has ruled ruthlessly over a fiercely divided country, may be expected to use her present powers to bind the future in order to protect herself and her family from the

Rodolfo Cuenca

kind of fate that befell Erap. She has had all of six years to do that, and she has three more years to prepare for all possible contingencies. Are we to think that this President—who has hand- repeated impeachments and coup attempts, notwithstanding—will be less ruthless in protecting the legality of her actions—will see life a finger to prevent herself against future risks? The way she has handled power throughout her presidency makes this unlikely.

The independence of the judiciary and the professional integrity of those who serve in its various agencies of government, including those in the police and the armed forces, are one minimum conditions needed to make the rule of law work in a democratic Asia, under Ms Arroyo's watch, we have seen the most blatant undermining of these institutions by the executive. The assault on the autonomy of the investigative and prosecutorial offices of government, in particular, has been so brazen that those who are in charge are still in possession of dark arts investigations, prosecutions, and prosecutors' independence have been utterly abusive. The past and present in which they have been exposed to the public as performing partisan work—they bottling up about matters and within. The law has plainly been used as a weapon to threaten and punish political enemies.

The tenor of all this has been the continuous erosion of public trust in the country's legal institutions. Days after the dismissing-findings of a fact-finder Eastern nationwide survey done just a week before the promulgation of the Estrada verdict shows the lowest public trust in the Sandiganbayan. Only 27 percent of those who were asked could say they had much trust in the Sandiganbayan's capacity to render a fair judgment on Erap's case. Twenty-three per cent said they had little trust in it, and 50 percent could give no opinion on the matter. This is a sad picture of the public's perception of the country's anti-graft court, and, no matter how one looks at it, it tells us why it is difficult to believe in yesterday's legal decision to declare, as fits, we have no choice but to keep trying.

But this is not the Sandiganbayan's fault. There has been no extremely difficult task, and there is every reason to recognize the justice officials in Estrada's administration and keep entire legal proceedings on track, a complex case. If blame must be allocated, it has to be laid at the door of those who have done everything, directly and indirectly, to prevent the Court from focusing on the orderly legal merits of the case. I'm talking about the people from all sides of the political equation. If we keep referring the statements of our judicial system, or promote a penal view of our courts, how much justice can we expect when it is OMB or Comelec Chair Benjamin Madrigal came to be tried?

Like all countries caught up in the waves of global modernity, our social reality is becoming more complex every day. Despite our many centuries metaphors, attempts to undercut its operations, our society has evolved functional institutions for dealing with this complexity. The elaborate codes, norms, and procedures we find in the economy, in education, in the mass media, and indeed, in the legal system, all seem to cut society's pitfall passage to modernity.

We must keep our society's compartments apart. It is right that Erap's downers are going to ask for a review of the Sandiganbayan's decision's competence and consistency in the application of legal norms. But we must resist using public opinion to impugn the validity of legal decisions. Doing so only further weakens the rule of law.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

A shot in the arm

GET REAL

Sudhir Collas-Monsod

IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS LEADING TO 9-11 (the day the Sandiganbayan handed down its decision on the plunder case against Erap), speculation was rife as to what the decision would be. And so, there was the opportunity among the spectators—except, as one puts. The common underlying assumption was that the decision would be politically based, meaning, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would really be calling the shots on the Sandiganbayan's decision. Spectator theories merely justifying why the decision she would tell them to make. So most of the discussion was not on the merits of the case but on whether an acquittal would be more beneficial for her than conviction followed by GMA than a conviction.

What was the reasoning to why an acquittal would be forthcoming? Simply, it was that this was the only "safe" course for GMA. Because, if Erap was found guilty, GMA (1) would be under the pressure from the opposition that would have an even bigger axe to grind, and would be more vicious in its retaliatory attacks; or (2) ERA could look forward to the same kind of harassment and charges from her successor that she stopped doors to 2001. Either way, she'd still be stuck "dark and cool with" wreath-ruler philosophy.

And what about the reasoning that a guilty verdict was to be expected? Simply, that this was the only "safe" course for GMA. Reasoning: Erap would be sentenced to serving from six and his supporters carry branches to mount even more vicious attacks on her—or, Erap sentenced would a greater danger to the stability of the regime than an Erap under house arrest.

What was clear was that a coup was on. GMA would be blamed for whatever decision was handed down. It would be a politically-no-win situation for her.

At breakfast (after the 6:00 a.m. Mass) on 9-12, I asked the members of my Working Group individually—there were 14 of us present—asking each to answer, consecutively, two questions. The first was: "What do you think should be the decision on the case?" And the second was, "What do you think will be the decision on the case?" My purpose was obvious... I wanted to find out whether there were a difference between their decision and the Sandiganbayan's decision. And, of course, I wanted to find out why.

On the first question, the house was divided 6 to 8—six saying that Erap should be convicted, and the one saying he should be acquitted. On the second question, which was merely divided. What was interesting, however, was that three-out of the four who thought that Erap should be acquitted, also thought that he would be convicted by the Sandiganbayan, while four out of the six who thought that Erap should be convicted also thought that the Sandiganbayan would acquit him.

In other words, seventeen of 10 did not think that the decision of the court would agree with their individual decisions. And if one assumes that the opinions of my group were "non-aligned" opinions on Erap's guilt or innocence, rather than based on political affiliations, then the results of my informal and unrepresentative poll could be interpreted to mean that, although not unanimous, the majority were of the belief that the Sandiganbayan's decision would be politically based.

But as it turns out, the assumption of "non-aligned" opinions was not quite borne out—two of the four who thought Erap should be acquitted did not necessarily think that he was not guilty—one said that he should be acquitted because other politicians had committed more offenses, and were area-free; while the other said that he should be acquitted because only had been a year, and 10 percent could give no opinion on the matter. This is a sad picture of the public's perception of the country's anti-graft court, and, no matter how one looks at it, it tells us why it is difficult to believe in yesterday's legal decision to declare, as fits, we have no choice but to keep trying.

But this is not the Sandiganbayan's fault. There has been no extremely difficult task, and there is every reason to recognize the justice officials in Estrada's administration and keep entire legal proceedings on track, a complex case. If blame must be allocated, it has to be laid at the door of those who have done everything, directly and indirectly, to prevent the Court from focusing on the orderly legal merits of the case. I'm talking about the people from all sides of the political equation. If we keep referring the statements of our judicial system, or promote a penal view of our courts, how much justice can we expect when it is OMB or Comelec Chair Benjamin Madrigal came to be tried?

Like all countries caught up in the waves of global modernity, our social reality is becoming more complex every day. Despite our many centuries metaphors, attempts to undercut its operations, our society has evolved functional institutions for dealing with this complexity. The elaborate codes, norms, and procedures we find in the economy, in education, in the mass media, and indeed, in the legal system, all seem to cut society's pitfall passage to modernity.

We must keep our society's compartments apart. It is right that Erap's downers are going to ask for a review of the Sandiganbayan's decision's competence and consistency in the application of legal norms. But we must resist using public opinion to impugn the validity of legal decisions. Doing so only further weakens the rule of law.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Polls about Erap

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS, FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph "Erap" Estrada has remained a very significant political figure, one that often turns up in the agenda of the regular quarterly Social Weather Surveys many times.

Following the trial. The public kept a strong interest in the president trial. Through the years, the trial was followed closely by nearly 50 percent of Filipinos, ranking it very high in a consistently established list of about 10 major news events of the previous quarter. Usually, the most salient event is followed. During my up to 60 percent, and the most salient, by 30 percent or more in this list.

Erap's first Third Rating (also percentage minus dissatisfaction percentage) was a very strong +38 in July 1998, the start of his term, it was much lower during the impeachment trial, but still positive: +16 in Dec. 8-11, 2000 and +11 in Jan. 6-9, 2001. But with John II collapsed to its all-time lowest -23 in Jan. 27-28, 2001.

Erap's net

Abalos' other role as broker

LETTERS

LISTENING THROUGH TWEAS IN THE Philippines

Deep in the culprits behind the unresolved Mega-Pacific scam have yet to be held accountable, now comes another irregularities that will again deliberate the people of precious public funds.

The highly questionable deal signed by ZTE Corp. of China and the Arroyo administration stinks as much that attempts by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos to clear their names aren't successful.

Abalos acting as a broker for the Arroyo administration? It would seem that aside from being an election opponent but Ulonu Macapagal-Arroyo, Abalos plays a more important role for this government—as a broker of highly irregular deals.

We cannot forget the election computerization contract which Abalos entered into and which defrauded the Filipino people of around P2 billion. He has not been made to account for that.

It's about time that Abalos and Mendoza and, ultimately, Mr Arroyo be made to pay for again bamboozling the Filipino people.

Hilquech and prosecutor Leonardo-De Lima, black and pinstripes (BOY) Mendoza.

—JOEL GARCIA,
spokesperson, Mayappuro,
mayappuro_77@yahoo.com

De Quiros is wrong, GMA did right by appointing De Leon

THE REPLY TO CONRADO DE QUIROS' column titled "A man named Idiot," (Opinion, 9/4/07)

The facts are not wrong, it's the gist of the whole matter that is. Ask every ordinary, faceless member, alumnus or alumna who has known him, Ricardo de Leon, and you will be surprised at the support he has been getting and at the reasons that he has yet to achieve.

Thousands of students rallied in front of the administration building to show support for the only man in a very long time who has managed to gain respect in a community to which he never belonged. Before his supposed ouster(s), Academic qualification isn't the only path to becoming a university system president, everything takes time; success, the Miranda; State University badly needs an iron hand that only De Leon has delivered.

When everything is said and done, this is probably one of those rare moments when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo got it right. Perhaps, the heavens should start minding us columnists on general case before making claim to write. Truth, or at least a semblance of it, is always more valuable than the current opinions.

—LEAH MAGSOMA,
BS-E, Lot 13, Marya Gerardo Bonada,
Mangaldan, General Trias, Cavite 4107

Noli's empty boast about soaring economy

"DPWs ARE PROOF OF ECONOMIC boom—Ito Cantos," (Inquirer, 8/2/07) If indeed the Philippine economy is booming, why are more and more Filipinos leaving the country for work abroad? They're leaving the Philippines because there are no jobs opportunities here. How then can Sec Domingo Noli de Castro claim an economic surge?

It is the overseas Filipino workers who are keeping the Philippine economy afloat, not the government. De Castro is part of the government but he does nothing to stop the exodus.

Thailand is in tears of thousands of skilled workers, which the Philippines can surely provide. What is De Castro doing? If he can do something about this, maybe he'd earn bragging rights in helping OFWs. We Filipinos are going to Thailand for different reasons, but only with one thing in mind—to find a decent job our available to us in the Philippines. Many of us married as workers, then become "TNTs." Most of us have been successful because there are lot of opportunities here, unlike in the Philippines.

Fortunately, we don't have domestic helpers here, mostly professionals. If De Castro wants to earn respect, he can do so by reducing the number of Filipino teachers who are on the verge of falling into the job of unemployed.

What is the significance of education if OFWs who are domestic helpers? It is necessary to have a college diploma to become a DH? Most of the OFWs have no college diploma; they learned their skills through experience because they could not afford to continue their studies. Experience is another reminder. Special skills cannot be obtained from the universities; they are acquired in the hard-earned jobs.

The Vice President should not brag about a soaring economy while college graduates are doubling do with menial jobs to survive.

—LEAH GARCIA,
leah_g@yahoo.com

Dishonorable suggestion

THE REPLY TO LETTER TITLED "Compensation audit of Philippine debts urged," (Inquirer, 8/23/07) Being an Australian by birth, and with a Filipino family, I would certainly urge that the matter be given serious thought. I don't mean the auditing, I mean the popular suggestion that the loans be not paid or even the lenders just forgiven.

It is not the duty of a foreign creditor to investigate if a government took conditions with all the loan of the country. For example, banks cannot be made liable if the Philippine government later changes its laws in a way that makes the goods acquired with the loan useless or inappropriate. Why should the Australian taxpayers pay for the lost?

I am very sure that the same groups urging foreign lenders to give up their rights on loan repayments would cry foul if the Philippine government does not honor dying with money it has received from foreign borrowers.

If there is a need to reconsider loans, then it should be done with the new loans and not with existing loans. The Philippines, which is extremely dependent on the remittances of overseas Filipino workers and on foreign aid, is, therefore, not in any position to be irresponsibly threatening that it will not repay its loans. Just look at the German governments and loans to the government after the Nazi 3 reconvened.

Nonpayment of loans is almost a fatal thing, whether it involves private or governmental loans. If the project that a loan funded did not turn out right, then it is matter for local investigation which should have nothing to do with the foreign creditor.

It is not an unreasonable thing to for the taxpayers of the lending countries pay the debts of the Philippine government, just because the Philippine negotiators did not do their homework well before asking for the loans.

—KURT HUSCHKE,
arnhu_2000@yma.com

Teachers censure GSIS for inefficiency

IN BEHALF OF THE MANILA PUBLIC SCHOOL teachers, I commend Inquirer columnists Ramon Pedrosa and Solita Monsod for drawing public attention to the grievances of members of the Government Service Insurance System. Their dilemma have become a way for the teachers' disappointment with the State-run insurance system. We salute the two of them.

The controversial among teacher's is now saturating: they must prompt solutions to the various GSIS-related problems haunting their sector. It is undeniable that the inefficiency of the GSIS has gone from bad to worse under GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia. Daniglio Gregbaylan said one sided policies—which violate Republic Act 8291 (the GSIS Act)—have become the order of the day.

The teachers denounce the GSIS programs, like the eCard Plus, and policies that are being imposed by virtue of board resolutions that contravene RA 8291. These are inept policies the GSIS forces the teachers to swallow.

Furthermore, members are disgusted and suffer as much because of the inefficiency of the system in posting their contributions and loan payments as well as in updating their membership records. Teachers compose 40 percent of GSIS membership. Does anyone, some of the makers, paradigm have been asleep away from their harness, per GSIS society, teachers are delinquent members when, in fact, payments for their loan amortization and contributions for their GSIS premiums are religiously deducted every month from their salaries and these deductions are reflected on their monthly payrolls.

Despite several dialogues and mass actions initiated by the Manila Public School Teachers Association, the GSIS remains unalterable to and unaffected by their complaints and demands. Because of this, they are now planning for a bigger mass action. The teachers plead with the GSIS officials, please don't let them push through with this.

The teachers also appeal to the government, particularly Congress, to raise their plight to the hands of incompetent officials of the GSIS. Please investigate those people who run the GSIS.

Finally, we, the teachers, urge the Arroyo administration to remove Garcia from the GSIS.

—MIDARIO U. BERNARDO,
president, Manila Public School
Teachers Association,
933 Interior St., Sampaloc, Manila

INQUIRER Visayas

Slain marine honored in Tacloban

By Victoria S. Llabro
Tacloban City

IT WAS VERY HARD FOR 54-year-old Teresa Serneniano Jr. to accept that he would never see his first-born again. But the thought that his son had died while in the service of his country has somehow eased the pain in his heart.

"It is very hard for a parent to lose a child but what can we do? He died on duty. So, what is best now is for the family to move on," said Teresa at the sideline of the culminating program of the crime prevention week celebration recently held at the Tacloban City Hall.

Teresa, a native of Tacloban, was to receive that day a certificate of recognition awarded posthumously to his son, Private First Class Elmar Serneniano, a Marine who died last July in Basilan.

The award, given by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, was in recognition of Elmar's "selfless commitment to his duty and love of his country."

Elmar was one of the Marines belonging to the 3d Recon Company, 1st Marine Brigade of the Philippine Marine Corps, who were on their way back to their base after a fruitless search for abducted Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi when fired upon by alleged Muslim rebels.

After more than seven hours of firefight, 14 Marines were killed with 10 of them beheaded and mutilated, among them, Elmar.

Teresa said he learned from some of the survivors that his son's right arm and a finger were cut off by their enemies.

Elmar was about 23 years old when he was recruited into the Marine Corps. He had been in the service for about four years when he was killed in battle.

His remains was brought to their residence in Barangay Tagpuro, Tacloban City. There were accompanied by Elmar's girlfriend Loubie Rose Labrador of Zamboanga City and her mother and grandmother. Loubie and Elmar were supposed to get married this month.

Also a marine

Teresa knew how it was to be a marine, having also joined the military service in 1973 at the age of 23. He was among the fifteen recruits from Tacloban who trained in Tarsier, Cavite. After six months of rigid training he reported to his unit, the Armored Battalion where he had been assigned until he retired in 1998.

He served 25 years not only of rigid training but also the fiercer battles.

He had been assigned to different places in Mindanao, among them Basilan and Jolo. In most of those years, his wife Iderlinda, 54, and their three sons were with him wherever he was assigned.

"My children grew up in military camps. When I was assigned in Zamboanga they were there and they saw the situation of the Marines ... they saw the work of a Marine," Teresa said.

His wonder Ivanco's second son, Allan, also chose to become a Marine.

Allan was assigned in Jolo with the 26th Marine Battalion, but was recently transferred to Fort Bonifacio.

TERESO Serneniano Jr. holds the certificate of recognition given for DILG to his son Elmar who died in Basilan last July 18.

Asked if the third son would also become a Marine, Teresa said his youngest son is also inclined to becoming a Marine. "But I wish he'd finish his studies first," Teresa said.

The youngest son, he said, is taking up mechanical engineering in a university in Tacloban.

Bringing flavors to a soundless world

By Ms. Shiela Lobico
Iloilo City

IF HE CANNOT FULLY COMMUNICATE with signs, gestures and smiles, he might as well convey the words and meanings through flavors and aromas.

With that, Angel Lanajan, 26 and deaf, decided to go home to cook by enrolling at the West Visayas State University (WVSU) residential education class with 20 other students.

While he shares some plate of his classmates who enrolled because they want to work abroad and open a catering or restaurant business, Angel's goal, first and foremost, is to break the barrier in the sound less world.

"I want to open a business, a restaurant for deaf in cure years," he wrote in a piece of paper during the interview.

Angel said some of his deaf friends would want to join him run a restaurant or a cafe, probably the time to be put up by the deaf who want to go mainstream, beyond the to-morning care of local handicap associations.

A high school graduate of the Special Education Integrated School for Exceptional Children (Sped-Isec), Angel would have wanted to go to college and become a licensed teacher. He applied, but the local universities were not ready to take him in because their lack teachers adept in sign language.

Neither could he afford to hire an interpreter to bring to class, Angel said. He was admitted to enroll instead in the nonformal vocation class.

Angel said he was happy in the cooking class run by Fernandilla Tejero. Students are taught the basics of home cooking and cooking for business. The recipes have impredictable ingredients of leave out, depending on the purpose. Among the dishes are "Tinlarang Bangus" (stuffed milkfish), "Chorizo" (sausage) and other cured meat products, beef steak, "embutido" (meat loaf) and desserts.

"The recipes are easy" said Angel when asked if he learned quickly. "I can cook them when I have my restaurant someday."

His favorite is beef steak served with caramelized onion rings. But during the interview, he says making embutido, and he learned how to mix ground lean pork with cucumber, will chew into mind-legs and meats then for an hour.

He thinks the best menus are vegetables, hearty soups and stir fry, because they are easy to cook.

Angel said he wanted to learn more international cookery, learn with flavors from lands unknown to him. But he has no intention of working abroad, even if his two sisters are in the Netherlands. "I love the Philippines," he wrote.

Improvised sign language

In his cooking class, Angel gets along well with others even if they do not know sign language. But he can easily communicate with them by using his hands, face and body. For example, his classmate cautioned by holding a calendar, making circles and pointing to next class. The lesson Angel will work the next.

According to Tejero, Angel is cheerful and friendly. He makes effort to communicate with hearing persons and does not feel inferior to them. He also makes full use of his mobile phone by sending text messages when hand signals are lost in translation.

Angel's parents died when he was 11 and he was left to the care of his older siblings. Today he earns his keep by working in a canteen at the WVSU, washing plates and making sandwiches and hamburgers. He also earns P300 every time he teaches sign language to the deaf and nondeaf for an hour or two. He also speaks in seminars on deaf culture.

He plans to master the sign language, to many variants and inflections, because he wants to be an interpreter for the deaf who are victims of crimes and sexual abuse, like rape.

Analyza Perras of the Association of Disabled Persons in Iloilo said more and more deaf in Iloilo had become confident in facing the hurdles in the hearing world.

Some were able to acquire technical skills; others were trained to computer programming. Some worked as sewers, garmentakers, grocery clerks and teachers.

The deaf communities, according to Perras, but there is more openness these days, thanks to the deaf and volunteers who advocate for deaf rights. "We have started to listen to them," she said.

ANGEL Lanajan with his cooking teacher, Fernandilla Tejero

'Body and Sole' for Cebu's weary wage earners

By Irene R. Dela Cruz
Cebu City

WHEN HE FIRST WENT INTO BUSINESS, Jobenie Lim was not successful. He returned to being an employee but he dreamed of owning a successful firm one day. So, when he started his six-spa business, little did he imagine it would become as successful as it is now.

After he finished his accountancy degree from the Silliman University, Jobenie worked for various local and multinational companies engaged in shipping, manufacture of furniture and toys, and pharmaceuticals.

He ventured briefly into the restaurant business after retirement, using his separation pay as capital. When it failed, he went back to work but the failure in his first venture did not deter him from going into another business. So when he saw that the health and wellness industry is encouraging sector, he decided to go into the business himself, but not without preparing for it.

"There was no preparation whatsoever when I opened the restaurant. I just thought that putting up a restaurant would make a good business, so I went into it. But this time, I have taken time to come up with a business plan to ensure its success," Lim said.

He was working then as the general manager of a Korean-owned cosmetic manufacturing stalled cops. When the company had to face competition from China, Lim decided to look for an alternative source of livelihood.

Inspiration

In 2003, he picked up a back issue of the UK magazine Inspirement, which contained an article on the potential of the health and wellness industry. Since he has been making use of massage and wellness services, he believed that the degree of success is high if he goes into this type of business.

However, he wanted something different from what was available in Cebu.

Drawing from his experience of spa in Manila and a studies type of business abroad, he came up with a concept of service that include body massage, hot spa and facial treatment using a combination of different procedures.

"With little cash and big determination plus the trusted expertise I gained from my 22 years of employment, I put up this business with a clear mission and vision to provide health and wellness services to the most number of people at prices within everybody's reach, and to become the number one massage spa in the country," Lim said.

Thus, Body and Sole Body Massage and Foot Spa opened its doors on May 21, 2003. Its differentiates it from the massage clinics existing here at the time. Jobenie introduced music, lights, aroma and better amenities as well as friendly customer service.

Before he knew it, Lim had to expand his first outlet's limited 50-square meters (sqm) to 100 sqm since people were lining up for Body and Sole's services.

When his friends expressed interest to buy a Body and Sole franchise from him, Lim decided to offer franchises to enable people like him to go into business with a higher success rate.

"From 12 employees, we are now more than 300 therapists mentored nationwide. The total capital investments of all body and Sole outlets have reached P68 million and the combined annual gross sales are in the vicinity of P60 million to P70 million, with the combined annual income of about P25 million," he pointed out.

Growth

Body and Sole has grown to 30 branches and affiliates—25 are franchises and five are company owned.

His secret to their affordability has played a major role in the success of the business. According to Lim, Body and Sole charges only P180 for a facial that costs P600 in salons. He also attributes Body and Sole's success to his passion for the business and targeting the niche market, timing and lot of luck.

While Body and Sole has become a successful endeavor for him, Lim set his sights on a broader goal. He has become an advocate of the local spa industry development. As he saw the need to address the issues of professionalism and competence, which hound the industry he and the other day spa owners formed an association—the Spa and Wellness Association of Cebu (SWAC).

The association's goal is to help in the development of the local spa industry through the fostering of therapists by the Department of Health and the accreditation of the spas by the Department of Tourism.

Lim's potential goal, however, is to provide Body and Sole as the Jollibee of the spa industry, providing quality spa services at affordable prices. "I would like to see every city in the country has a Body and Sole. Now that I've made my mark on the industry, I would like to cater to people coming from all walks of life so that they also become part of the health and wellness revolution," he added.

BODY and Sole founder and chief executive officer Jobenie C. Lim and wife Flor pose with Cebuana singer Rabi Pega.

Across the NATION

Pols interfere with design of SCTEx

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A BATTLE FOR INTERchanges has erupted at the national flagship project Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, with Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, Subic-Clark Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan and Pampanga Rep. Carmelo Lazatin pushing for their respective cities to change the one already approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Pozorrubio-Angeles City boundary in August.

Sec. Rigoberto Tiglao, president and chief executive officer of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, the proponent of the SCTEx, is "working for the President's direction."

"This is probably the last component among competing interests. My stand is personal. The most compelling reason for me is that this was the direction of the President to use," Abalos told this Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez and businessmen on Friday.

Abalos was referring to the planned interchange in Barangay Mauaque in Porac town that the Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon had proposed.

Legislative councils in Pampanga, San Fernando and Angeles cities have endorsed the interchanges in respective resolutions.

That idea will be halted by a planned 6.4-km road leading to Clark at a total cost of P2.6 billion, Rodriguez said.

Abalos and Secretary Ginger Reynoso, director-general of the Presidential Management Staff, had directed him, through an Aug. 23 memorandum, to submit an implementation plan for their joint strategy.

Rodriguez and Gov. Eddie Panlilio have pushed for the interchange in Mauaque to connect San Fernando and southern and western Pampanga towns to the SCTEx.

"San Fernando is the regional government capital, the building center, the gateway to many provinces in Central Luzon. It shouldn't be isolated from the SCTEx and the opportunities that will give to the people, especially the business sector. The national government agreed that President is 100% from labor. It shouldn't be left out now," Rodriguez said.

He said this was within the local government's vision to make San Fernando the global gateway by 2020.

Panlilio, behind the national government, especially Mr. Abalos and the BCDA, for consulting with and listening to the people in their issues.

Abalos explained in the letter that the original interchange in Dinalehuan, Porac and Angeles' friendship had been scrapped. This was after the previous BCDA administration entered into negotiation of concession after the bidding failed when the proposals were way up the approved concession rate of the 94 km, P27.4-billion expressway.

Rather industrial and financial studies showed these interchanges to be not feasible. The Angeles Friendship interchange is located at the boundary of the municipality of Mabalacat-Macapagal International Airport in Clark. "Building an interchange there would render the airport useless. Again, it will cost them around P3.7 billion," Abalos said.

The Porac interchange was designed to have a "loop" so it would easily be connected to a feasible proposed interchange in Mexico, also in Angeles City, but this also possible because the would be near the planned alternative connector of the proposed Clark Logistics Hub in Clark. The loop, he said, would entail building a bridge and rolling tunnels. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

THE FAMOUS Telephone Sa Barangay (TSB) of the Commission on Information and Communication Technology spent $137 million on phones that don't work. LUIS J. SION/INQUIRER ARCHIVES

Village telephones: A waste of $137M

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez and John Aliparo
Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—BEFORE THE National Broadband Network deal, there was the government's Telephone Sa Barangay (TSB) project.

The TSB was a multimillion-dollar project started by the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) in the provinces of Mt. Province, Ifugao, Abra, Apayao, Ilocos, and Kalinga, Quezon, Sogod, Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Surigao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, including this city in 1998.

CICT is an attached agency of the Office of the President.

Little attention

Unlike the NBN, the TSB project appears to have received little attention or ill among national leaders.

Despite claims it was riddled with graft, TSB did not command such attention by either the House or the Senate.

And so, in the absence of national uproar, lawmakers, some local officials are taking the initiative to conduct their own brand of audit on the TSB.

In this city, the P16-million contract for the installation of a telephone system in rural barangays have outraged opposition figures who blasted it to the $300-level.

"It's an ugly orange sight ... These are all white elephants. These telephone lines are all wasted."

Local plan

The project under the TSB have won concurrent in 2003 under the administration of former mayor Vicente Emano and contractor Philippine Communication and Network Corporation (now Inc. (Scom)).

Opposition councilor said that of the 86 barangays targeted for the project, only four have actually received the telephone systems.

City councilors Jesper Abalos and Jaldy Oreta, have openly criticized the deal, saying the overpricing of contract is loaded with highly irregularities.

They backed their claim with the annual audit report for 2005 by the City Auditor's Office (COA), in which it was said that city hall failed to comply with auditing procedures with regards to the contract.

No design

"The city general services office (GSO) failed to completely and promptly submit to the office of the audit team leader the necessary documents pertaining to the bidding, review and verification of the contract for the P16-million City Point Telephone System," the document said.

City auditors said for four years since 2003, they have been calling the attention of local officials to act on the audit report but to no avail.

The COA also questioned the disbursement of project funds, made at a time they were asking for a review of the contract.

In response, the COA said as of December 2006, $11 million had already been paid to the contractor despite its failure to do its job.

In various radio interviews, Emano, who is now vice mayor, repeatedly denied any anomaly behind the board project.

He said he was willing to be investigated.

Defective

But Abalos and Oreta said there were no need to look further to determine that the deal was really irregular.

They said that in the four barangays where the project was delivered, defective pieces of equipment were provided, which rendered them useless.

In Iligan, Zamboanga del Norte, local officials are also experiencing incompetence from the national government over the fate of the multimillion-dollar TSB project there.

Iligan Mayor Aster Lim said they could use the TSB project "in reserve, a display and contact elephant."

Since 2000, 92 telephone booths had been installed in 23 villages of the town but remained here we are for three.

But unlike officials of Subic and Cagayan de Oro, the CICT said in an exclusive that "all the systems are now operational in provincial levels."

Dead phones

Lim said he did not know of any working unit in his town installed under the TSB.

"It's an ugly orange sight sending wrong impression to the people. There are all white elephants. These telephone lines are all wasted. The booths and the lines are also vandalized," Eligio Soldita, a Subic councilor, said.

A TOWER put up to receive signals in Porac's Mauaque instead has lone line to view. LUIS J. SION/INQUIRER ARCHIVES

The Inquirer noted some units in Barangay Macasandig in Cagayan de Oro.

In Libo, Zamboanga del Norte, 61-year-old farmer Santo Legaspi said in 2006, the phone unit was working when there were still freshly-installed.

Fortunato Pedigo, an equipment operator for the Department of Transportation and Communications in Subig, confirmed that some of the units installed under the TSB project were not working anymore.

He said some vandals apparently were even removing "telephone cables" to their residences could make use of them.

Pamigo said with the installation of the lines intended for the phone booths to residences, they were able to provide communication facilities to about 200 consumers within Tuna Barangay Mercado, Mrs. Cecilia Bonifacio and Julie Ugtado. Inquirer Mindanao

ROUNDUP

Marijuana seized in Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Almost a hundred marijuana plants, uprooted in separate areas from and in Carmen, North Cotabato had been burned during a village officials and raids.

North Cotabato police director Senior Supt. Federico Dulay Jr. said the bulk of the seized marijuana plants came from Barangay Malagapas in Carmen, while the other came discovered in a documentation lot in Barangay Market Area.

"Our men and agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency are conducting closely to identify the cultivators of this prohibited source of drugs," Dulay said. The hard, when marketed, has an estimated value of about a million pesos, a PDEA agent said.

Charlie C. Galang, Inquirer Mindanao

Man blasts self with grenade

CEBU CITY—A man blasted himself with a hand grenade inside his home in Sudlon, Lahug on Sept. 8.

Some of the eyewitnesses to the P54 Ricardo Blanco of the Lahug police, said Benevenido Perez, 51, resident of Barangay Kasambagan in Lahug severed some parts of the body.

Neighbors said Perez apparently was caught when he was at his home, according to witnesses.

Police are waiting for the victim's relatives to come home and will claim his remains.

Edwin B. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Most wanted person nabbed

(Sept. 12)—Another most wanted person in Northern Luzon was arrested in Southern Mindanao on Sept. 10, according to Senior Supt. Damian Mosqueda, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Southern Mindanao.

The listings by Regional number of most wanted persons in Luzon is ranked in Southern Mindanao, which is composed of the provinces of Davao del Sur, Davao de Oro, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley, this month alone.

Mosqueda said CIDG is extremely grateful Cesar Gonkiu on Monday in Compostela Valley province on Monday.

Gonkiu, the most facing kidnapping and robbery charges in Northern Luzon and can use a bounty of P720,000.

Ernesto Dacay, Inquirer Mindanao

Village dad slain in S. Kabuntalan

COTABATO CITY—A Sheriff Kabuntalan village councilor was shot dead on Sept. 8, the fourth government official killed here in a span of 10 days.

The series of killings prompted the relief of Supt. Pantaleon Salas and the entry of Senior Supt. Wilfredo Pamplona.

Barely had Pamplona warmed the chair when Rakman Mohammad, village councilor of Barangay 1 in Sheriff Kabuntalan, was shot in the head and died before reaching the hospital.

Investigators said Mohammad had attended a wedding party here and was going back to his home but was met on a motorcycle gunmen before driving Suzuki shotgun and .45 caliber.

He suspects had fled in the direction of the boarders of Maguindanao, adding to such municipal of the Social Security Welfare office here on Aug. 28. City councilor Sultan Ahmad Kamid on Aug. 31, and Datalan Sharmaden, administrative officer of the Department of Public Works and Highways in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Sept. 7.

Pamplona said the authors of the attacks was similar but he can believe were trying to find out if these were the handiwork of a single group.

Charlie C. Galang, Inquirer Mindanao

3 arrested for robbery in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A bodyguard-companion killed while two other's were wounded in two separate robbery incidents in Calauan and Rizal town on Laguna province on Aug. 30.

Those suspected of the killings were subsequently arrested by joint encounters while pursuing policemen.

Police said Benedicto Dorado, 46, resident of Barangay Bukal, Magdalena, Laguna was beside her house at around 8 a.m. when two armed men barged in and ordered her at gunpoint to go to her room. The armed men, who tied the victim's daughter and housemaid, quickly ransacked the house and fled.

But before they could escape, the suspects gunned down Dorado who helplessly screamed for help from their neighbors," police said.

Jovanson Togle said when policemen approached the vehicle, one of its passengers pulled out a pistol and opened fire, triggering a brief shootout.

One of the suspects, a certain Glenson Bonita, of Barangay Dita Pop. Calauan, was killed in the exchange of gunfire recorded. Another suspect, Fernando Ramos, also pulled by the gunmen.

Two of their cohorts, identified only as a certain Jack and Boche, were able to escape.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Alleged car thief nabbed in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police arrested a suspected member of a car theft and robbery syndicate in Sta. Cruz, Laguna on Tuesday, police said Monday.

Police said Elbert Anthony Sison, 21, resident of JP Rizal St., Barangay Poblacion, Magdalena, Laguna, who belonged to the Jaspero-Abad Santos group, a local gang involved in vehicle robbery, was arrested from a house in Cebu Barangay, Barangay Pagsanjan in a search warrant.

Some were brought to the Laguna provincial police station.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

ENDANGERED SITE

Ifugaos told: Decide terraces' fate

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—IFUGAOS are going to choose for themselves whether or not they should preserve the centuries-old rice terraces in the province, Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. said here.

But if Ifugao clans agree that the relics must be preserved, it is the entire marketing of an organically grown system rice brand that will keep the terrace economically viable, he said.

Niche

"Going organic, then, to me [is] the niche of what is Ifugao," he said.

The latest round of inspection conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the terraces' disintegration has reached an alarming rate because most terraces have been abandoned.

The terraces' state of affairs imperils their credentials as a world heritage site.

But Baguilat said that is pressure best addressed to the national government, which inscribed the terraces in a list of living heritage sites in 1995.

Endangered

"According to Unesco's benchmark, we have failed so we are still in the endangered list. ... [They have stands that] the way you construct roads to the Cordillera, the way you fix the irrigation... [and] there have been conversions over the past 10 years.

"[But] with or without the Unesco declaration, it's still ours. Maybe we'll just drop indigo (It's difficult) because you're competing with national and international politics."

"But at least there's a growing international community [who believe that] it's up to the Ifugaos [to decide the fate of the terraces]."

Public hearings

The governor said public hearings for a modern land use plan covering the Ifugao terraces would initiate how much the province needs to invest in their upkeep.

The terraces rely on government subsidy to repair and maintain their ancient irrigation system.

But there is an subsidy for clans who have given up farm life for a job in the cities, Baguilat said.

He said he is studying the development of an Ifugao brand because making the terraces pay their own way is a step in the right direction.

'Going organic... to me [is] the niche of what is Ifugao...'

Coffee lessons

He said he was inspired by a process initiated by the Bugnay Coffee to restore his old-to-organic coffee supply on organic quality certification from Switzerland, a European certifying agency.

Ifugao has started harvesting Ifugao's organic coffee. Organic [cheese] (which means once-a-year in the Ifugao) is now being exported in small consignments by the Individual Indigenous Cordilleran Entrepreneurs Inc. (IICE).

The terraces' small farms make commercial rice production a poor option for Ifugao, Baguilat said.

He said attempts to introduce high-yielding varieties of rice failed because of the inordinate amount of chemical inputs required to keep these varieties fruitful.

Man-made destruction

"Policy enforcement to stop [cutting will happen so] and if we believe the maize that needs [for harvesting the relics]. We destroy our forests and [everything else has become] commercial," he said.

"That's just a look into the future. This is [not irreversible] scenarios when the trade barriers disappear completely. We would be competing with vegetables from China ... info to tips. [tips] nacin nacin [ayo] mountain, ana yung competitive advantage natin? [We have. Let's think] instead of our edge. What is our competitive advantage against China? Organic," he said.

"Nine thing good with the [the terraces' world heritage] inscription is that it showed us there is a problem. Every day we wake up to the rice terraces and we always assume those are alive and well."

THE BUD terraces have yet to the Unesco endangered list because of the alarming rate at which it was being destroyed.

Mindanao school execs awaiting cyber education

DAVAO CITY—SCHOOL OFFICIALS in Mindanao are awaiting the implementation of the Cyber Education Project (CEP) of the Department of Education and engineered hope it could improve the quality of education, especially in remote areas.

In General Santos City, City Schools Division Superintendent Estrella Lacson said the CEP would really help to address the problem on education facilities in the country.

However, Lacson said it was not certain if it would be implemented in their city.

"But, even without the cyber-ed, we already started to venture into ICT through the Project Alert," she said.

Lacson said, in fact, the city has been chosen as pilot area for ICT in General Mendoza.

On Sept. 27, she said that schools in the region will already be launching the E-S-Smart project, which is actually a step toward cyber education.

In Butuan City, Isidro Bird, regional information officer of the Deped in Caraga, said the pinpoint cyber education would be the best alternative to the perennial shortage of books and classrooms in the poverty-stricken region.

"Cyber education will offset the lack of books and classrooms in Caraga," Bird said.

He said that through the project, schools located in remote and hinterland areas of the region would have equal access to learning.

In Iligan City, 35 out of the 54 high schools there have IT facilities, according to Ann Sollijon, IT coordinator of Deped in Northern Mindanao region. Agustin Remio, Franklin Galigued and Rahel Omal, Inquirer Mindanao

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that TVI RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Stock Certificate No. 001 for 99,999 shares issued to TVI Copper, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 011 for 75,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 012 for 25,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 016 for 675,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., and Stock Certificate No. 016 for 225,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc. were reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.

(PSA Classified G, 9/14-20, 2007)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Transportation/Maintenance Service Utility Vehicles in Three (3) Schedules (2007-07-0007)

Schedule	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in Php	Delivery Schedule
I	Three (3) units Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) 2.5 Diesel Engine Type	3,300,000.00	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from Contract Effectivity
II	Seven (7) Units Mini Van 4x2 Gas (1) unit Speed Diesel Engine Manual Transmission	10,500,000.00	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from Contract Effectivity
III	Two (2) units Passenger Wagon	1,600,000.00	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from Contract Effectivity

SOUTH COTABATO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Department of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Capital Region

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National Citizenship	Position
HOTELLERIE PHILIPPINES, INC.	Jose Ana Chiong Sebastian	Assistant Vice President
GROUPE JOSEPH BUS TRANSPORT CORPORATION	Gael Ann Bastien Gonsequet	Technical Consultant
ASIAPHIL NATIONAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP.	Evangelo (Fon) Chinese	Planning Manager
ICT MARKETING SERVICES, INC.	Lenn Joseph Sebastian	Senior Vice President
ASIAPHIL NATIONAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP.	Ho Ge Chinese	Asst. Planning Manager
ASIAPHIL NATIONAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP.	Lapsung Hong Chinese	Technical Manager
ASIAPHIL NATIONAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP.	Eusebio A. Chinese	Operations Manager
ASIAPHIL NATIONAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP.	Sales Fon Chinese	Asst. Operations Manager
ASIAPHIL NATIONAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION AND DEV'T. CORP.	Wink Fung Chinese	Accounting Manager
CITI ENGLISH LEARNING PLUS, INC.	Wen Jung Fon Korean	Operations Manager
HAROLD PHILIPPINES, INC.	Tomas Alfaro Indonesian	Marketing Manager
JCC PHILIPPINES, INC.	Hiroto Isoka Japanese	Field Engineering Manager
HOTELLERIE PHILIPPINES, INC.	Ayla Maria Kuzucu Indian	Assistant Vice President (Food Services)
HOTELLERIE PHILIPPINES, INC.	Jagdeep Kaira Indian	Assistant Vice President (Operations)
HOTELLERIE PHILIPPINES, INC.	Yusuf Bunga Indian	Assistant Vice President (Operations)
PEOPLESUPPORT (PHILIPPINES), INC.	Michael Charles Burger Switzerland	Vice President
ONE SOURCE BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILS., INC.	Ashish Kalsagar Indian	Senior Manager IT
PERNOD RICARD PHILIPPINES, INC.	Wilfred Emest Khong Wai Lun Singaporean	President and Managing Director
BORDS STORY TOUR PHIL. CORP.	Dan Oil Lee Korean	Management Consultant
MORE MARITIME AGENCIES, INC.	Stefanos Gaskinos Greek	First Captain

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. ADRIANITO
OIC-Regional Director

NEW LOWER Year-round Fares

Every Juan can fly more with our NEW lower GO Fares! Book early and pay less.

INTERNATIONAL

₱999
Manila to Guangzhou • Taipei • Xiamen NEW!

₱1,499
Manila to Macau NEW!
Manila to Bangkok • Hong Kong • Kuala Lumpur
Cebu to Hong Kong
Davao to Hong Kong (via Cebu)

₱1,999
Manila to Shanghai NEW!
Manila to Jakarta • Singapore
Cebu to Singapore
Davao to Singapore (via Cebu)

DOMESTIC

₱98
Manila to Laoag • Legaspi
Cebu to Bacolod • Iloilo

₱288
Cebu to Cagayan de Oro NEW!
Manila to Bacolod • Cebu • Dumaguete • Iloilo • Kalibo • Puerto Princesa • Tacloban • Tagbilaran
Cebu to Clark • Davao • Kalibo • Puerto Princesa • Zamboanga

₱688
Manila to Butuan • Cagayan de Oro • Cotabato • Davao • Dipolog • General Santos • Zamboanga

CEBU PACIFIC IS THE NO. 1 DOMESTIC AIRLINE!

• MOST DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS • MOST DOMESTIC FLIGHTS • MOST DOMESTIC ROUTES • NEWEST PLANES
• MOST DOMESTIC PASSENGERS FLOWN • LOWEST YEAR-ROUND FARES

Domestic fuel and insurance surcharges range from PHP 700 to PHP 1,150.
International fuel and insurance surcharges range from USD 20 to 44.

CEBUPACIFICAIR.COM
Call (02) 70-20-888 or visit the travel agent nearest you.

go FARES

CEBU PACIFIC
It's time everyone flies.

52,000 ha of bamboo plantations neglected

CLARK FREEPORT—BAMBOO plantations in the country, estimated to be at 52,000 hectares in 1998, are "almost all neglected now," reducing the resources for economic development in rural areas and efforts in new global warming, an official of the Philippine Bamboo Foundation Inc. said.

Bernardito Ilia Ana, president of the PBFI, said the bamboo stands have been neglected because many people perceived these types of grass and their products as "only for the poor."

Low regard

"Ang mga ay kawayan ngpa nahalin Dhamboo ate area with very low regard). Bamboo ay pwede nating gamitin sa mga bahay, sa paggawa ng furniture made-of bamboo are thought to be suited only for poor folks," he said in an interview following a briefing for Philippine private sector leaders at the Subic Bay Philippine Marine Base on Thursday.

In contrast, China has nurtured five million hectares of bamboo and is adding another million hectares in 2008 to operate a $2 billion annual export industry that makes food, medicine, beverages, tiles, textile, furniture, handicraft, charcoal, paper and houses out of bamboo, Ilia Ana said.

In the Philippines, the top bamboo producers are Cebu and some parts of Caballayan and Central Luzon, Ilia Ana said.

Vanishing forest

Felix Mosquera, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's committee on alternative energy, said the world's standard for forest cover was 32 percent and the Philippines was way below 20 percent.

"We need to harness reforestation and bamboo here seems to be the answer," Mosquera said, adding that bamboo have proven to be an efficient carbon dioxide taker. Bamboo grow to maturity in four to five years and grow well in tropical climate.

China exposure

Undersecretary Edgardo Manda, who is concurrent adviser for Southern Tagalog and who is in charge in the Cagayan Valley Development Authority as general manager in charge, said he has taken up the bamboo development program as his "personal advocacy to provide additional income to farmers."

It began, he said, when Fire Gotchenan, Jose Miguel Arroyo's son-in-law on exposure trip in Anji, China, during the sidelights of the Boao Asian Games in 2006.

Manda said the program, which they started in early 2006, is private sector led, mainly the Rotary Club of Makati, and does not get any funding from the government.

The PBFI, DOST and Manda have partnered in the program. They proposed to develop a bamboo "bambusetum" on a museum of living bamboo as a technology demonstration center at the Subic Bay Philippine Marine Base in Pampanga, south of Clark.

Ideal site

As the Subic Bay Philippine Marine Base in Zambales, the PBFI plans to plant 29 species of bamboo from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, and 27 species from Taiwan.

Oswaldo Perrenos, managing director of the Singapore Business and Alliances Inc., said Clark was "centrally located and accessible to other Central Luzon provinces."

The Clark Development Corp. has not yet officially agreed to have the bambusetum, but Criselda Gabiana, general manager of the local Sinyong Pilipino wanted it as an addition to the attractions at the revived 60 hectare Subic-Clark commercial park.

Ilia Ana said bamboo growing can give more income to farmers. Those who cultivate bamboo can earn P97,375 per hectare every after harvest, while those who grow coconut, say in Quezon, get returns of only P50,000 to P80,000 per hectare, he said.

Manda said the program has set up a nursery and propagation center in Quezon province in Sitio Pilipinas, the PBFI plans to plant 29 species of bamboo from the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, and 27 species from Taiwan.

THE RISES of bamboo vary in the case of this bridge in Iloilo City, the bamboo served as a railing.

'Bamboo are seen with very low regard'

More E. Visayas kids suffering from malnutrition

By Jody A. Gobieza
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THOMSON of Sorsogon (Leyte 1994) in Eastern Visayas requested a double-digit malnutrition rate among children in five of the six provinces in the region.

NNC regional chief Carlos Santiago said Eastern Visayas registered the second highest 27.1 percent in malnutrition prevalence rate in 2006, which was mainly blamed on poverty.

The problem, she said, was aggravated by the lack of interest among local officials to engage in nutrition awareness campaigns.

No interest

Northern Samar, one of the country's poorest provinces, registered the highest rate at 27.32 percent, followed by Samar at 27.16 percent, NNC records showed.

Biliran and Leyte came in third and fourth highest at 20.92 percent and 20.25 percent, respectively. Eastern Samar registered a malnutrition rate of 19.42 percent. Southern Leyte had the lowest rate of 9.45 percent.

"If the family is poor, naturally food is insufficient. We can not expect them to have balanced and nourishing foods on their tables. Also, the big size of the family is another reason why we have problem on malnutrition," Santiago said.

She said the lack of knowledge among mothers on the importance of eating nutritious food was another reason there was high malnutrition in the region.

"This lack of knowledge is rooted to areas where our information dissemination could not reach," she said.

Based on the Operation Timbang conducted by the NNC in last year, 60,603 of the 303,019 children underwent five years old. Out were weighed were considered malnourished.

The situation could be improved, said Santiago.

"This is controllable and not a hopeless case. We can change all of that with the cooperation and support from our local leaders down to the barangay level. That is why when we conduct our advocacy campaigns, we reached out to our people in the barangay," she said.

Lack of awareness

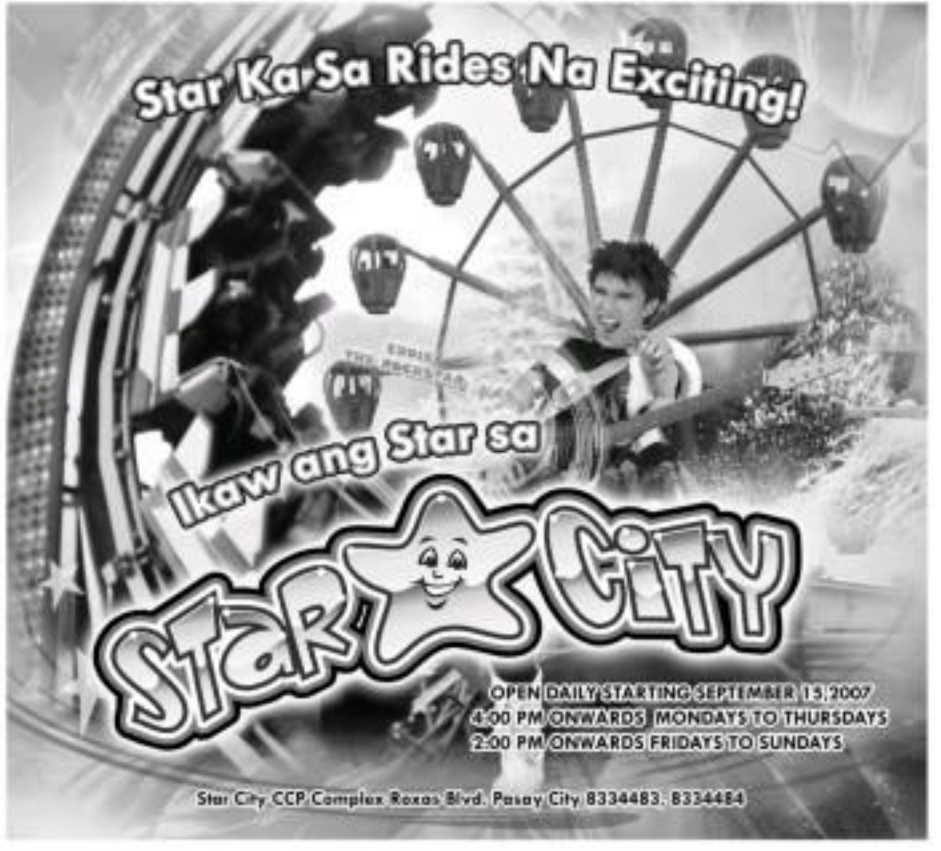
Santiago noted that the lack of awareness and interest among local leaders in dealing with nutrition issues partly contributed to the situation.

"There is an apparent lack of appreciation among our leaders on the nutrition program, which is sad. A healthy population could provide lots of opportunities like development of the area," she said.

She said local leaders should implement a campaign on nutrition education and provide livelihood among communities, like gardening, as a means of addressing the problem.

Santiago said NNC has decided to level-up intervention next month among the region's 138 city and town mayors, particularly the newly elected ones, to make them appreciate the importance of having a healthy population.

She said mayors could learn from Manila City, Southern Leyte as it is one of the region's most active local government units that address malnutrition problem.



mercury drug
SUKI SABADO
SEPT 15 to 22, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

NEWS

DepEd chief gives in to solons

Will provide copy of MOA on cyber education project

EDUCATION SECRETARY JESLI LAPUS yesterday acceded to the demands of opposition members in the House of Representatives for an official copy of the memorandum of agreement covering the Philippines and China's undertaking for a $400-million education broadband system.

Lapus confirmed before a hearing of the House committee on appropriations that he signed the memorandum of agreement for the country's Cyber Education Program in Boao, China, and that he has a copy of the said MOA. He said he's willing to give the House panel a copy of the MOA.

"Despite the fact that I've yet to get clearance for this, yes, I'm willing to give a copy of the memorandum of agreement to the committee," Lapus told the budget panel during the hearing of the Department of Education's proposed P150-billion budget.

"What I have is a copy of the memorandum of agreement not a copy of those notes (after they were signed in China in April 2007)," he added.

Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, one of two congressmen who delivered privilege speeches questioning the propriety of a P50-billion cyber education system, said he expects a copy of the MOA after the DepEd's budget hearing.

"Mr. Chairman... this secretary is willing. The other secretaries didn't want to answer questions," Rodriguez said, asking House budget panel chair Abbo Bag. Edcel Lagman to allow him to ask Lapus more questions about the deal.

Lapus became the first Cabinet secretary to tackle the details of the controversial broadband projects covered by agreements signed by Philippine and Chinese officials. The Philippines' copies of the agreements were allegedly stolen.

Norman Bordadora

Check out tonight's
2nd Chance Panalo
Wag munang itapon ang inyong mga LOTTO ticket!
Pwedeng gamitin ang inyong Superlotto, 6/42 Lotto, 6-Digit Lotto, 4-Digit Lotto, EZ2, Suertres o Megalotto tickets para manalo ng P100,000 linggo-linggo!
Ang daling sumali!
Simple lang, dito mahahanap ang lotto ticket number.
Mayroon pang pagpipiliyong ipamimigay!
P50,000-weekly! P50 Smart Load daily! Kaya sali na!
MECHANICS:
PCSO

Aplus METRO

Salonga resigns from Sigma Rho

By Tina G. Santos and Sandiego R. Alcantara

RAMON HAGONOY AWARDEE AND FORMER SENATE PRESI... Jovito Salonga has resigned as member of the Sigma Rho fra... recently after some of its members were implicated in the fatal hazing of UP Diliman student Cris Antheus Hernandez.

"I hereby resign as a member of Sigma Rho, effectively immediately," Salonga said.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer, Salonga, one of the most prominent Filipinos, said that he was resigning "because of recent events in which Sigma Rho has been involved."

Other prominent members of Sig...

MAGNA 424

Down payment on the BMW 3 Series is now at Real 0% through BPI Express Credit.

BPI Express Credit

Shop at Festival Supermall and enjoy longer, lighter payments at 0% interest when you avail of Citibank PayLite Installment Plan.

Citibank PayLite Fest
September 15 - 30, 2007 • Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City

PayLite now! With Citibank Cards, life can be so rewarding.

For more details, please call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995 9999 or visit www.citibank.com.ph.
Don't have a Citibank Credit Card? Call 423 3000.

citibank let's get it done

Police tighten security in Camanava, Rizal

By Nancy Carvajal and Kristine L. Alave

POLICE IN THE CITIES OF Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela (Camanava) and in the province of Rizal have tightened their security measures due to threats from communist rebels.

The Northern Police District said they have received intelligence report that two top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) were sighted in Valenzuela City.

"We are still validating the report of their presence in our area, but measures are already in place to prevent them from exploiting persons inside," Chief Supt. Heliu Tangco said.

Tangco was referring to the arrest of the founder of CPP, Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands, and the assassination of former President Joseph Estrada by plunder on Wednesday.

In Rizal, the entire province's police force remains on full alert because of the threat from the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the CPP.

Police in Rizal have been monitoring the movements of the NPA for weeks now.

Tangco told the reporters that they have received information that Ramon Fernandez and Lovely de Guzman, both members of the CPP Central Committee, were seen in several areas in Valenzuela.

"All precincts and operating units are already on the lookout for known communist leaders and their activities," the NPD chief said.

He explained that intelligence gathering particularly in the barangays are being activated as a precautionary measure to reduce the vulnerability of police products.

Also being validated, Tangco said, is a report of possible NPA attacks on PNP stations, government buildings and the detonation of police and military personnel in retaliation for the arrest of Sison, who was subsequently released by the Dutch government for lack of evidence.

The police director said, that as a procedure, all police units are in alert status to provide protection to residents, vital government, private and other installations located in the northern part of Metro Manila.

He added that the police force has been beefed up to strengthen their capability and to preempt any act which will disrupt the peace and order of Camanava and nearby Metro Manila.

In Rizal, the provincial police remains on full alert for possible retaliatory attacks by NPA rebels in connection with Sison's arrest, said Supt. Joel Garcia, Rizal police operations officer.

But Rizal Deputy Provincial Director for Administration Supt. Pieter Tacio said that the number of NPA rebels in the province is dwindling. He said there was no significant threat from the rebel groups in the province.

Bacoor added that they would continue to strictly monitor the activity of former president Joseph Estrada in his house in Tanay, Rizal.

He said that Rizal provincial police chief Senior Supt. Freddie Peralta had recently inspected the security measures around Estrada's sprawling residence.

Based on their intelligence reports, Bacoor said there were no threats against Estrada in his villa where he remains under house arrest.

KALESA FESTIVAL
A man rides on his calesa during the Kalesa Festival, an event sponsored by the Philippine Tourism Authority to recognize the traditional horse driven carriage in Manila. KIMBERLY JAVIER

Lim rejects calls to close Manila Zoo

By Allison W. Lopez

LIM

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM yesterday rejected calls by animal rights group to close the Manila Zoo and even wanted to add more animals inside the zoo.

"It will developed video clients a zoo for the entertainment and enjoyment of children. It's educational because people will see the animals ... In fact I'm planning to add more. We've already added [officials in] Cabuab Island if they can spare us some of their animals down," he said, adding that his office would take care of freight costs.

Mayor of the People for the Editorial Treatment of Animals (Peta) urged a protest on Thursday in front of the zoo to initiate to demand the animals' return to their natural environment. The Peta has also supported proposals to convert the Manila Zoo into a sports complex.

Lim said he had already shot down the moves to relocate the zoo because it would not benefit both residents and tourists.

"It's already a landmark in the city of Manila. If we're modernizing the animals they can complain, but we deprive the people of enjoyment ... Hindi lang dapat kasi nabibisita si Rizo Mogmin yung nakikita ano eto sila at nanirang lang ano yung sounds nila [They should not only be read in books. It's better if you can also see them and hear their sounds]," he said.

While admitting that the zoo's condition has deteriorated, Lim said he was planning to beef up the zoo's budget to rehabilitate the structures and "fatten up" the animals. With the help of donors, the mayor said giraffes, lions and tigers would be the added attractions.

The lack of space, he added, was also a problem for the 3.3 hectare zoo as much as he would like to widen the animals' areas.

"We don't have enough space. That they can still roam inside. The elephant has an open space. The crocodiles have water in their pen. It's like they are in the jungles," he said.

Lim said animals like snakes and monkeys would have to remain inside cages because of the danger they pose to residents.

Peta has claimed that animals put behind bars would suffer from "zoochosis," a condition where animals are driven "mad" by captivity.

"That's their opinion, but what's the opinion of the majority? I think it's too much if an unelaborated country will spearhead the closure of zoos. We'll be hearing bouts of protests," said Lim.

Salonga resigns from Sigma Rho

From page B12

SALONGA with Sigma Rho "brod" Drilon. JOY ASTUDILLO

sus Illas are former Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Edgardo Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile and Rodolfo Gon Bok Biazon.

Salonga had earlier threatened to resign if it was determined that Illas was the mastermind behind Ozamiz's death of Mendoza.

Instead, police officials and Mr agents would be the one to go to the university and get the statements of possible witnesses, said lawyer Rosado Ano, chief of the PNP Anti Terrorism Division, which was tasked to handle the case.

Ano explained that the move was agreed upon during a meeting among the NBI, Quezon City Police and UP officials yesterday.

"UP officials were requesting if the students, particularly the possible witnesses to the case, could be interviewed at the university instead of inviting them over at the NBI, aim of giving them a "comfort zone."

"Of course, we cautioned that then (UP officials) were just promising. But students, especially those who might render threats as a result of their decision to come out in the open," Ano said, adding that the meeting was part of the three-month-long cooperation effort.

Ano added that the UP administration would provide an office where student witnesses can be interviewed by authorities.

For the past two weeks, the NBI has been running subpoenas to several UP students and alleged members of the Sigma Rho fraternity who reportedly have links to the cacophony.

However, not one of those subpoenaed has showed up at the bureau to give any testimony, Ano said.

He claimed that some of those only sent letters "invoking their right to remain silent."

Another NBI source added that the UP administration, which has launched its own probe of the case, seemed to be the first to file a case against those allegedly involved in the incident.

"They requested if they can be allowed to file administrative cases," the NBI source said. "I think the purpose is to come up with resolution of the people involved."

Once in a while, GMA is funny

"GMA PURSUE SUPERHUGS to fight graft" — Inquirer front page headline yesterday

Ambidextro

Once in a while, the President is funny even when she's being serious.

***

President Gloria says her government honors corruptors and appointments "that go through the required procedures, despite media attacks."

In other words, her government will now through the $329-million supply contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project. The project has been exposed as being attended by bribery, and was grossly overpriced.

Last Thursday, this correct said GMA no longer gives a hoot about what the press and the public say about her government, and criticisms because she has become callous to criticisms.

What Gloria wants, Gloria gets, and to heck with what we — the people — say.

***

Actually, the exact amount of the contract is $329 million.

ON TARGET
RAMON TULFO

But the real price is only $100 million.

That's an overprice of a whopping $199-million.

According to sources, here's the breakdown of the amounts that will be distributed to various personalities if the contract finally pushes through:

• $75 million, for the "Big One" and the "Small One."

• $20 million, for the "Old Man" and his boys.

• $70 million, for a big boat, sometimes crony and "party."

***

A knowledgeable source says that so far, the amount that has been given as bribes is $50 million, broken down as follows:

• $20 million, for the "Big One"

• $10 million, for the "Old Man"

• $5 million, for "Batman"

• $5 million, for the boys

• $5 million, for the businessman-crony

***

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has become a dumping ground of retired generals who are supposed to be the epitome of discipline.

The DOTC top honcho, Secretary Leandro Mendoza, is a retired police general. He are some of his undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and heads of bureaus and agencies under the department, too.

Now it seems insubordination is the order of the day in the generals-heavy DOTC.

Former Philippine National Police chief retiree Leandro Mendoza recently appointed chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), a DOTC bureau.

But Leandro can't discharge his functions as LTO chief because the guy he replaced, Secretario Bermejo, another retired PNP general, doesn't want to vacate the position.

Bermejo has been given back his old position as assistant transportation secretary with attendant benefits.

By the way, there must be something at the LTO because guys who are removed from their position refuse to budge.

***

Commuter advocate Pinky Tolentino formally launched the other day her crusade of protecting the welfare of commuters that means you and me and our neighbors.

Tolentino, a chemist who comes a farming service company, drove the late of Metro Manila's two senior agencies for saying that water coming out of the faucets is dirty.

She also angered some horticultural societies for urging them to inform their customers how much cholesterol and fats go into their lunch food.

By going public in her crusade, she is following in the footsteps of America's consumer-activist guru, Ralph Nader.

It's going to be a lonely war, Pinky, and at times frustrating.

But I know you will plod on because you're doing it out of conviction for just being alive.

Pinky is a cancer survivor.

'Palma case not yet closed'

THE RAPE-SLAY CASE OF 7-year-old Geraldine Palma cannot be considered closed by the Bifunji in Police District until her suspected killer Orong is found, this was said Silfredo Lim said yesterday.

"Kailangan yung isang lang. (What we need is the truth only) They (MPD) have to be 100 percent sure that the suspects are the real perpetrators. We are looking at everyone's desires here. The case is not closed because I am not satisfied with the development," Lim said.

Lim was reacting to the "case closed" statement made by MPD homicide chief Supt. Alex Yanquil, ang after the alleged mastermind in the "Bondo, in the killing surrendered in the Quezon City police on Thursday.

"I'm cautious I am engaging in extrajudicial because I'm not satisfied. I'm not swallowing this hook, line and sinker. To resolve, double down the cases we have is to get the main culprit because he also will clarify what really happened," he said.

During wee hour seven with the young victim before the girl's corpse was found inside a bag garage bag floating at the Navotas Harbor, Sunday, on Aug. 19. Yesterday said the other day that they would continue to look for Orong, who is believed to be hiding in her native town, despite Tondo's surrender.

Just recently, police suspects in the case—Ismail Guerito, the same "Bic Bic" Bolivar and Jerry Igan—were charged with rape with homicide in the Manila Regional Trial Court—but all claimed innocence like Tondo.

"None of these have even admitted guilt. Some surfaced to clear their names because they were in the street on 17 to 18 and what they were to clear their names," Lim pointed out.

Previous suspects Domingo Mesias and Domingo Agcaoe, who later turned state witnesses, were the ones who tagged them and a certain "Berna," who pointed to Tondo as the one who lured the rape of Precious.

"The question now is the credibility of the witnesses. Are they derailed by the ground? Because anyone can do anything when money like that is dangled," Lim said, referring to the supposed P5-million offer by the victim's family for the suspects' arrest.

When it was pointed out that the witnesses underwent lie detector tests at the National Bureau of Investigation, Lim paused. Lim could only reply: "Why MR and not at the PNP (Philippine National Police)?"

Allison W. Lopez

MetroBriefs

Double-dead meat

OVER 100 kilos of "double dead" meat were seized from two markets in Pasay City, but authorities were unable to arrest the two store owners immediately since left after dropping off the contraband. Members of the city veterinary office immediately buried the seized cargo at the city's slaughterhouse. The meat were seized from a small market along Fernando Maro Street in Pasay City and another at the corner of Protacio St. and Taft Avenue during the early morning hours. Rodolfo Bernasor of the city veterinary office said this meat did not have any seal from the National Meat Inspection Commission. Jun-Jun P. Asenjo

Fake Lacoste seized

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday recovered 14,000 pieces of fake Lacoste products, including bags and wallets, worth some P28 million during raids on a mall and warehouses in Manila. Operatives of the NBI raided UNA-47 at Plaza Miranda Shopping Mall in Quiapo following information that counterfeit Lacoste products were being sold there. NBI agents also surveyed stores on the establishment's storage areas on the third floor of Escuela Center, also in Quiapo. The mall and warehouses are reportedly owned by a certain Chona Cang, a Chinese national. Nikko C. Dumlao

Body in garbage bag

THE BODY of a man, believed to be a member of a notorious criminal syndicate, was found stuffed inside a garbage bag in Bacoor City. The unidentified victim was between 30 and 35 years old, 5'7" tall, medium built, hair-skinned, clad in a maroon t-shirt and camouflage short pants, and bore a "Bahala Na Gang" tattoo on his left foot and a heart on the left portion of his back. The victim's body was found in multiple stab wounds. Investigators recovered empty plastics at the corner of Lanzones and E. Rodriguez Ave. in Barangay Immaculate Conception, Cubao at around 1 a.m. of Thursday. Jeannette I. Andrade

Rotary project

THE 10TH "Silay-ng Rotary sa Kalikasan" will take place today at the Annonang Sports Complex. A segment's project of the Rotary Club of Kamuning, it is being carried out with the cooperation of the Division of City Schools of Quezon City.

Women Bulikatan

THE WOMEN Bulikatan Movement headed by Leonarda Camacho will celebrate today the 400th birth anniversary of its co-founder, Bonifacia Sariego, at a luncheon at the Rizal Capitol Social Hall. Sariego helped found the Metro Manila Council of Women Bulikatan Movement in 1978.

Experts warn of 'big one' after Sumatra quakes

BANDA, INDONESIA — A series of powerful earthquakes has sent tens of residents in western Indonesia — including another one that triggered a fresh tsunami warning Friday — fearing thousands sleeping on plastic in the hills and each new aftershock triggering a fresh round of panic.

Seismologists warn the worst may yet to come.

Kerry Sieh, from the California Institute of Technology, has spent decades studying the seismic fault line. He is one of several experts predicting a repeat of the massive earthquake that triggered the 2004 Asian tsunami, which killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen Indian Ocean nations.

"No one can say whether it will be in 30 seconds or 30 years," he said. "But what happened to the other day I think is quite possibly a sequence of smaller earthquakes leading up to the bigger one."

An 8.4-magnitude quake that shook Southeast Asia on Wednesday was followed by dozens of strong aftershocks — including one measuring a magnitude of 7.8 and another 7.1 — that killed 23 people, damaged hundreds of houses and spawned a three-metre high tsunami.

On Friday, a 6.6-magnitude temblor hit the area again, triggering the latest in a string of tsunami warnings that was later lifted.

The swell of waters that slammed into several fishing villages on the island of Sumatra on Wednesday swept away nearly a dozen homes but caused little other damage. No one died.

Ikill, Bahlilan, a 43-year old fisherman, said residents in Mentra Hitam were horrified when they saw the ocean retreat and then race back to shore.

"I heard people screaming and yelling, 'Tsunami! tsunami!'" he said. "I ran to find my children, but they had already gone to the hills."

A 10-year-old woman, Aniah, felt weak when the earth tears of moving beneath her.

"I was having difficulty breathing or walking," said Aniah, who like many Indonesians uses only one name. "I was afraid. My son grabbed hold of me and carried me out of the house."

The three massive quakes have also heightened experts' concerns.

The fault, which runs the length of the west coast of Sumatra about 200 km offshore, is the meeting point of the Eurasian and Pacific tectonic plates, which have been pushing against each other for millions of years. This can cause huge stresses to build up.

"There is a strong indication this foreshadows the big one," said Danny Hilman, an earthquake specialist in the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. "We all agree there is an 8.5 or stronger earthquake waiting to happen." AP

PICTURE of the recent earthquake another each other in Lake on Sept. 14. —

US program on climate is flawed, panel finds

AN EXPERT OF THE BUSH ADministration to improve federal climate research has answered some questions but lacks a focus on impacts of changing conditions and informing those who would be most affected, a panel of experts has found.

The Climate Change Science Program, created in 2002 by President Bush to improve climate research across 13 government agencies has also been hampered by governmental policies that have grounded earth-observing satellites and dismantled programs to monitor environmental conditions on earth, concluded the report, issued by the National Academies, the nation's preeminent scientific advisory group.

Shreekhakrishnan Ramanathan, the panel's chair, said the program's basic scientific efforts had contributed "an important initiative that has broadened our knowledge of climate change."

Among other things, the report noted, the effort has helped resolve disputes over whether the earth's atmosphere is warming significantly or not, allowing scientists to compare data and agree that warming is occurring.

But the report cited more problems than successes in the government's research program. Of the $13.7 billion spent by the program on climate research each year, only about $221 million to $190 million has gone to studies of how climate change will affect human affairs, he believe or worse, the report said.

"Discovery science and understanding of the climate system are proceeding well, but use of that knowledge to support decision-making and to manage risks and opportunities of climate change is proceeding slowly," concluded the 15-member panel, made up of scientists from universities and two companies, BP and the manufacturer DuPont.

John H. Marburger III, the White House science advisor, issued a statement Thursday thanking the science academies for the "thoughtful review," and saying that several issues highlighted in the report "are already being addressed."

The program was originally framed by Bush as a way to focus research on pressing issues and produce a broad suite of results in two to five years. AOT

MADE FROM TILAPIA, WOULD YOU BELIEVE? Technical Textiles, 31, wears a bikini made from Tilapia fish skin at a Bangkok fashion show on Aug. 24. Usually fish skin ends up as food or is stored overdue but cheap food has become a highly desirable product used to make designer handbags, shoes and swimbikinis.

Hurricane surprises Texas-Louisiana border

HOUSTON — HAZE FORMING Hurricane Humberto surprised the Texas-Louisiana border area on Thursday with a powerful punch that killed at least one person, shut down three refineries and cut power to more than 100,000 customers.

It had been expected to hit land as a tropical storm, but suddenly strengthened into an 137 kph hurricane before coming ashore in a transformation forecasters said was the fastest on record.

"No tropical cyclone in the historical record has ever reached this intensity at faster rate near landfall. It would be nice to know yesterday why this happened," said forecaster James Franklin at the US National Hurricane Center in Miami.

"It went from 80 knots (151 kph) to 75 knots (138 kph) in 24 hours. That's never happened before," said meteorologist Patrick Hood at the National Weather Service office in Houston.

Humberto struck the upper Texas coast about 60 km west of Galveston in the early morning hours as a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, then weakened to a tropical storm by 11 a.m. and later a tropical depression.

The storm was blamed for the death of an 80-year-old man in Bridge City between Beaumont and Port Arthur, who was killed when his patio canopy fell on him at the height of the storm, a Bridge City police spokesperson said.

By 3:30 p.m., forecasters said the storm's winds had fallen to 65 kph as it neared central Louisiana. It was headed eastward, dropping rain up to 20 cm as it went. Officials said a number of highways in Louisiana were flooded.

Part of Humberto's target zone still was recovering from Hurricane Rita, which hit the Texas-Louisiana border in 2005. Rita would affect Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.

Total Petrochemicals USA, Valero Energy Corp. and Motiva Enterprises LLC refineries in Port Arthur were shut down by power outages.

At the peak, power was out to 134,000 customers in Texas and Louisiana, reported the area's main utility, Entergy Corp.

The company said it could take several days to restore electricity. Reuters

The WORLD

Edna Lorraine B. Olonan

Veteran leads 2-way race to succeed Abe

TOKYO—JAPAN'S LEADERSHIP RACE narrowed to a two-way contest Friday with a party elder who emphasizes the need for closer ties with Asian neighbors emerging as the new favorite to succeed Shinzo Abe.

Taroo Fukuda, a 71-year-old former chief cabinet secretary and who is seen as a safe pair of hands, appeared to be edging ahead of former foreign minister Yuri Aso after behind-the-scenes political horse-trading.

The startling ouster in Abe, who stunned the country on Wednesday by announcing his resignation, prompted for a second night in hospital where he has been put on a drip after losing about five kilograms in recent months.

Abe said in remarks he declared his candidacy Fukuda was the harbinger of the dawn of a new era for Japan.

But he faces a fierce battle with the outspoken Aso to take the helm of the world's second largest economy.

"We've had lots of support from many people and I decided that I have to run," Fukuda told lawmakers of his ruling party faction.

"Now really is a time of emergency. I beg you from the bottom of my heart for your sweat support."

Aso, discussing his own bid in the ring, urged against a vote along faction lines by members of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The party will vote on Sept. 23. Its new leader is essentially to become the next prime minister as the LDP controls the powerful lower house.

Known for his loutish, conservative views that have sometimes riled Japan's Asian neighbors, Aso has left twice in leadership elections against both Abe and his predecessor Junichiro Koizumi.

Fukuda, the 71-year-old son of a former prime minister Takeo Fukuda, has in the past emphasized the importance of relations with its Asian neighbors and is seen likely to maintain warm ties with rivals such as China.

AFP

AFP

FUKUDA

China's high court orders more sparing use of death penalty

BEIJING—CHINA HAS ordered judges to use the death penalty more sparingly by discarding leniency for murderers who cooperate with authorities and white collar criminals who help recoup their ill-gotten gains, the government said.

The order is the latest effort by Beijing to reform capital punishment in China, which is believed to carry out more executions than the rest of the world combined.

"Capital punishment should only be given to an extremely small number of serious criminals," said a statement posted on the Supreme Court's website explaining the new order. The order was issued to provincial courts on Wednesday, it said, without releasing the full text.

When possible, the statement said, judges should sentence an offender to death but only on a two-year reprieve—a penalty often commuted to life in prison if they behave well in jail.

The order said crimes of property, such as the murder of a family member or neighbor, should not automatically result in the death penalty if the offender is paid to the victim's family.

Those convicted of economic crimes should also receive lighter penalties if they help authorities recover the money it said.

Critics regularly continue to excoriate people for economic crimes and political crimes.

On Tuesday, a former official with the Agricultural Bank of China was executed for taking bribes and embezzling bank funds worth about 15 million yuan ($2 million), according to local media.

In July, the country's former top drug regulator was executed for taking millions of yuan in bribes to approve substandard medicines, including an antibiotic that killed at least 10 people.

While the Supreme Court order called for greater restraint in ordering executions, it still upheld the use of the death penalty as a deterrent.

"We must hand down and carry out immediate capital punishment to regard to heinous cases, with bonded evidence that result in serious social damage," it said.

China doesn't officially release death sentences figures and human rights organizations do not know the exact number of executions carried out in the country every year.

Amnesty International says China executed at least 1,770 people in 2005—about 60 percent of the world's total. The true number is thought to be many times higher.

An amendment to China's capital punishment law, enacted in November, requires the Supreme People's Court to approve all death sentences, ending a 23-year-old practice of giving the 6 provinces to provincial courts. AP

SLAVONIC CULTURE

Women and children in multicolored costumes mark medieval martial arts during a festival of Slavonic culture in the southern Russian city of Ekaterinburg on Sept. 13. REUTERS

How Japan's ruling party picks its next leader

TOKYO—JAPAN'S RULING LIBERAL Democratic Party (LDP) will pick its next leader to succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe through a party poll on Sept. 23.

Any LDP member of parliament can stand if they gain the official endorsement of more than 20 other lawmakers.

To obtain the post of party president, a candidate must win more than half of the total ballot, which will be divided between members of parliament and representatives from regional chapters.

In the event that no one candidate secures more than half of the ballot, the top two go into a runoff to decide the winner.

Some 387 parliament members and 141 representatives from regional chapters will be eligible to vote.

Outside governing party veterans Taroo Fukuda and outspoken former foreign minister Taro Aso have emerged as the two leading contenders.

During the week-long campaigning period, candidates will spell out their political goals in debates.

But candidates of the party, whose different factions determine the balance of power, often seek support through horse-trading behind closed doors.

The winner of the poll is then almost guaranteed to become prime minister.

The LDP which had held a majority in both houses almost continually since the end of World War II, has in the past automatically appointed its leader to be the country's prime minister.

The ruling party lost control of the upper house for the first time in its history in July to the main opposition Democratic Party.

But the new leader of the ruling party is still certain to become the prime minister because the LDP and its junior coalition partner New Komeito still control the more powerful lower house. AFP

Putin sacks Navy commander

MOSCOW—PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN has sacked the commander of Russia's navy, taking to at least four the number of top brass dismissed since he appointed seven defense ministers, media in Russia reported on Friday.

The Moscow Times, an English-language daily, said Admiral Vladimir Masorin may have angered the Kremlin by accepting a US award in August without seeking permission.

The paper said Masorin had not followed the established practice of asking Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov's permission before accepting the Legion of Merit at a ceremony in Washington.

Defense ministry and Kremlin spokespersons refused to comment on the reports, saying they had not yet seen a decree ordering Masorin's dismissal.

A Defense Ministry spokesperson phoned down any suggestion of a connection between the US award and Masorin's reported dismissal, saying other top officials had accepted similar honors in the past.

Masorin had reached the age of 60, at which military officers are required to tender their resignations. However, Putin can extend their contracts until they are 65—something he declined to do with Masorin.

Russia's navy still uses far-east to Admiral Vladimir Vysotsky, the commander of Russia's Northern Fleet. Reuters

Thin models banned from UK catwalks

A MODEL displays a collection of lingerie during a fashion show in a shopping mall in Bangkok on Sept. 11. AFP

LONDON—CHILDREN UNDER 16 years of age should be banned from the catwalk, and fashion models should be screened for eating disorders, according to a report published Friday by the organizers of London Fashion Week.

The British Fashion Council report, however, stopped short of recommending models be disqualified from the fashion week for being too thin.

Model and Miss Ireland Georgina Salmon took part in the London week runways last year, and supported the Body Gossip campaign, which aims to boost self-esteem and body confidence.

Catwalk shows featuring designer clothes hanging off the shoulders of lanky girls have increasing pressure to see other models have died from purported eating disorders. Critics accuse them of glorifying unhealthy body types and promoting eating disorders.

The British report, written by panel composed of fashion designers, models and an eating disorders specialist, national school modelling agencies to certify that their models had been examined for eating disorders by an accredited list of medical experts.

Up to 40 percent of models may have eating disorders, compared with 4 percent of the overall population, the report said.

Instead of weight cuts, the British Fashion Council hopes to combat eating disorders through nutritional tools, monitoring programs and workshops. Other recommendations from the report include enhanced background checks to agents and photographer workshop with young models, random drug testing bookings, more funding for research into eating disorders, and the creation of a model health watchdog.

The report's recommendations are not binding and the council has not said whether it will follow the recommendations. AP

$25-M prize offered for unmanned moon shot

THE GROUP WHOSE $30-million robot spacecraft successfully launched and orbited the moon will receive a check piloted each to the respected space in 2004 has issued a new challenge: an unmanned moon shot.

Wednesday, the Andrews Space announced a $25-million prize—up to $20 million, paid for by Google, the silicon Internet company.

The contest calls for an robot to land a rover on the moon that will be able to travel at least 500 meters and send high-definition video, still images and other data back home.

The prize for reaching the moon and completing the basic tasks of moving and sending video and data will bring the entrants $20 million, according to the contest rules. An additional $5 million would be awarded for other tasks that include moving more than 5,000 meters or sending back images of moon-made artifacts like Apollo landers from the Apollo program. AFP

Sheikh fighting Qaida in Iraq killed by bomb

BAGHDAD—TOP SUNNI SHEIKH Abdul Sattar Abu Risha, who spearheaded a fight against Al-Qaeda, was killed by a bomb on Thursday, just 24 days after US President George W. Bush shook his hand when he visited Iraq.

Abu Risha was killed near his home outside Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province and the region touted by the US military as a success in its fight against the Iraq wing of Osama bin Laden's jihadist group.

He was killed exactly a year after he formed the Anbar Awakening Conference, a group of 40 tribes, on Sept. 14 last year to fight the Al-Qaeda in Iraq militants.

The attack also comes just hours before Bush was due to make a televised address detailing Washington's future strategy in Iraq in which he was expected to reiterate the success of Anbar.

The US military confirmed Abu Risha's killing.

"It was confirmed that he was killed in front of his house from an explosive from a roadside bomb," spokesperson Major Winfield S. Danielson said.

Anbar security chief Tariq al-Dulaimi said Abu Risha "was returning home when his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb planted by insurgents. He car was his driver."

Dulaimi said Abu Risha had ordered his convoy to stop so he would help a handicapped man sitting by the roadside.

"Seven other he got back in his car the bomb exploded," the police chief said.

White House spokesperson Dana Perino called the assassination an "outrage."

"Anybody has to realize the national security implications of any staging and making sure that Iraq is secure and that al-Qaida does not establish a safe haven in Iraq," she said.

The sheikh "was one of the first who came to the American side saying he wanted to work with the Americans in order to expel al-Qaida from Anbar," added Danielson, who signaled confidence that the effort would continue.

Abu Risha's brother Ahmed was left protected by US forces who put an 80-1 tank in front of his house and ordered his bodyguards and security forces that Ahmed will take responsibility for his security have passed to his own people.

"Sheikh Abdul Sattar Abu Risha was a leader who envisioned a better way for his people. This act of murder will never sway us and that resolve," said Lieutenant General Ray Odierno, second-in-command of coalition forces in Iraq.

Bush had said during his sightseeing stopover on Sept. 3 that a reduction in US combat troops in Iraq was possible because of progress in Anbar, achieved largely due to the fight declared by local chieftain against al-Qaida. AFP

SPORTS

[BATTLE]: Jeff and the Ateneo Blue Eagles would (clockwise from top) to Rico Maierhofer and the Green Archers when the rookie arrives tonight. PHOTOS BY JILL

WHAT'S INSIDE
RP Am: Labajo takes out Bayron /A28

Eagles hunt down No. 2 berth vs Bulldogs today

FORD FOCUS.WW
FAST DRIVE TO RALLY
Test drive any Ford Focus and get a chance to win an all expense paid trip to watch the last and most exciting World Rally Championship race in Wales, Great Britain live from November 30 to December 2, 2007.
Call 889 FORD (3673) to schedule your test drive.
Promo period: August 24 - October 31, 2007
WRC
Make Every Day Exciting

Cleansed.
Refreshed.
Revitalised.
HELIX
Shell HELIX Motor oils
We all know how refreshing and invigorating it feels to freshen up after a hard day. Well, imagine how your engine would feel if you could give it the same treatment.
Shell Helix Motor Oils contain special cleansing agents that lock away harmful dirt and deposits and condition your car's engine. Now you can be sure your engine is not just protected but rejuvenated, revitalised and refreshed as well.
For a smoother, quieter drive that lasts right up to your next oil change, choose Shell Helix Motor Oils.

Tankers Piccio, Balinas make waves in Olympic fest

By Jose Mazers

BAGUIO CITY—A MEMBER OF A FORmer Olympian and a grade schooler from La Salle ousted huge nipples in the pool for Negros Occidental in the 3-of-the-Philippine Olympic Festival Visayas qualifying legs here.

Jenelie Alexandra Piccio, whose father John is the first cousin of Olympic campaigner Ann Carlo Piccio, delivered gold medals in the boys' 13-and-under 100-meter freestyle, 100m backstroke and 4x200m freestyle relay.

Joshua Balinas, a Grade 6 swimmer honor student from University of St. La Salle in Bacolod, also put on a show by ruling the 100m backstroke and 4x100m freestyle in the boys' 11-and-under category.

Balinas clocked one minute and 19.62 seconds in the 100m backstroke, a "triple A" rating, according to swimming officials, that automatically qualifies him for the national finals at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila in October.

Swim Chief Mark Joseph was impressed with the performance of Balinas, whose efforts helped Negros boost its tank in the pool with 13 gold medals.

"That was a good swim," said Joseph. "I hope to see more of that kind of performance."

The Negros Occidental tankers also drew big efforts from Kristin Angeli Lucas, who pocketed three gold medals in the 100m free, 100m back and 400m individual medley for girls' under-16.

Lito Arellan (11-and-under 100m free), Nicole Esmeralda (12-and-under 100m free), Kenneth Granada (16-and-under 100m back), Gerard Gelongo (12-and-under 400m IM), Alfredo Hontiveros Jr. (13-and-under 400m IM) and Ma. Oleneh Salonga (13-and-under 400m IM) also qualified for Negros Occidental.

Capiz clinched the title in athletics in the sport's final day after harvesting three more gold medals to boost its tally to 14-9-4 (gold-silver-bronze).

Jimmy Jean Dolfo dominated the 5,000m race with a 22:05.8 clocking to duplicate the triple-gold medal feat of previous meet Jenelyn Pongoy.

Iloilo City, however, took the lead in the overall standings with 33-14-23 after sailing 11 golds in swimming, including victories by 16-year-old Isidro Tuazo in the 100m free, 200m back and 400m IM.

In football, Iloilo province thrashed Iloilo City, 7-0, while Cebu escaped with a 1-0 win over Negros Occidental to keep the lead in the under-15 division.

ILOILO Province's Nino Ollita, 15, wins the 14-under gold over older brother Nikko.

RP Am: Labajo takes out Bayron

By Manong R. Castillo

ILOILO CITY—CURIOUSLY ABSENT FROM LAST WEEK'S NATIONAL team tryouts, Sharin Labajo was looking at making his way into the 80-squad via the back door.

The 16-year-old, who was so prominent when he spent the top-ranked Amorito Milesbarrel in the semifinals of the 7th Asiateam in Thailand two years ago, made sure he would create a ripple again this year.

Labajo handled our defending champion Jay Bayron in the finals en route to the title of the Iloilo Golf and Country Club-course here.

Upsets were actually the fare of the day with Cadalsong standouts Jhon Hernandez and young Jamie Bay Ilustrisimo providing the feature noise in the opening round of match play.

Hernandez, the World Amateur veteran who now handles golf operations of the Camiguin Golf Club, showed Asian Games bronze medalist Michael Bibat the door via a 1-up conquest.

The 18-year-old Chabet took out 80-team member Ferdie Iranya, 3 up.

Labajo hit a 7-iron off the tee and again in his approach, leaving the ball within 10 feet of the hole for a routine par en Bayron made a mess of his second shot for bogey.

One of the first products of the National Caddies Open program, Labajo will now face Cadalsong auditioner Mark Fernando, the No. 2 seed who took out unheralded Jessie Viernes, 4 and 3, in the afternoon.

Jay's younger brother Ballou capped in the feast, stunning 80-team member Jessel Alaba, 3 up in the Final 16.

Castro and Hernandez, however, fell in the afternoon matches, with elimination second rejoinder Ambrosio Fernando zipping Tabuk, 6 and 5, and then-caddy Rene Moron whipping Fernandez, 5 and 4.

Anthony Fernando and Ballou Bayron drag it out today in the quarterfinals, while Tarlac hotelier also member Jeff Cuenca will battle Labajo for a shot with Sun.

Aiding Cuenca survive a clutch with Sun. to offer eliminating former 80 team member Erwin Arellano, 2 and 2.

Moron next faces Chapa Dating a 1-up victory over Jerry Ibarra.

In ladies play, Lora Roberts knocked out defending champion Carmelita Villamor, 2 and 2, and sealed a duel with Mega Superstar, a 5- and 4 winner over Ines Delubiano, in today's semifinals.

The other ladies' pairing will have Jennifer Sinsuphat, a 5- and 4 winner over Crystal Inspired, and Cookie Montalvo, who won over Chiboon Bevis, 1 and 0, for a seat in the title match.

GIANT-KILLER. Joseph Labajo repeats 2005 feat with stunning win over Jay Bayron.

Air21 waits for Jawo OK as mentor

By Manong R. Castillo

THE RETURN OF THE LIVING LEGEND, Robert Jaworski, to the PBA would happen next week.

ABS-CBN is just awaiting word from its tornite on its offer to have the charismatic former assistant coach the Express in the coming PBA season.

Aiding coach Bo Perasol and management has no other candidate in mind for the job and thus the team is merely just waiting for a response from Jaworski, who left the league in 1998.

"They (management) have no other coaches in mind," Perasol told the Inquirer in a text message.

Meanwhile, Purefoods guard Mad Amsell is reportedly being eyed to trade bait, but Purefoods Juday Charity have found no takers so far.

Amsell said needs Ryan Gregorio reportedly had a falling out.

In a pre-season game yesterday, Talk 'N Text blasted Welcoat, 125-109, behind the 20 points each of Jay Washington and Ilbo Cardona.

WORLD TITLE CRACK

Batawang downplays chances vs Solis

By Noah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—HE WAS VERY THANKFUL that Carlos Ted Batawang took a step back and gave himself only an even chance of winning when told yesterday that his mandatory draw-lunge for the IBF light flyweight championship had been officially set for Oct. 4 in Las Vegas.

Batawang admits, hours down he no long doubtfully as Isham JR's hand to say I'll not show my capability during the title fight," the 30-year-old challenger told the local wire yesterday.

Last week, Batawang said he had a good chance of dethroning Elmer Solis after viewing a fight video of the champ via a "free bike host on a borrowed laptop computer.

Batawang and trainer Jeremiah Quijano had claimed there was nothing expensive or extraordinary "in the aggressive fighting style of Solis," whose alleged shoulder injury caused a cancellation of the original Sept. 14 title fight.

Yesterday, without making a complete turnaround, Batawang humbly downplayed his chances.

Trainer Quijano also spoke cautiously while stressing the best he could do was assist Batawang in his ring-prep steps.

"Wala naman problema, tulo Amalayan, pero malaking magandito nang tapos (She's at his best, but we can't promise a sure win)," explained the tall, quiet-spoken southpaw from Batawang with no long despite at least two successive big cancellations.

LOOKS much scarier for Bert Batawang.

Batawang, who suffered a cut on the eyebrow in the other round, will spar eight rounds in day against Rudel Maeril, whom Solis defeated in a Chicago title bout on Aug. 4.

Batawang's first big fight here as member of the IBF team is the Boxing World Cup in San Antonio fell through last month after Mexican German Cervera was discovered with a sore rotita two days before the bout.

Batawang said that, prior to the World Cup, there was another scheduled title eliminator last May against Mexican Francisco Rosas, that had to be rescheduled.

The bout, to be held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, marks Batawang's first crack at a world title after 17 years as a pro, and his first appearance in this City.

Batawang (30-6, 16 KOs), who has been training for almost three months in California, reports to Freddie Roach's gym daily and regularly spars with Miguel, who has been giving him pointers on how to fight Solis.

The 28-year-old Solis (23-1-2, 19 KOs) will be making the ninth defense of his IBF title.

If victorious against Solis, Batawang will become the fourth Filipino to hold a world title after IBF teammate weight champ Rosendo Ala and WBO bantam Nonito Donaire and WBO bantam ruler Sonny Boy Jacinto.

With a report from Sabrina L. Lagcoubay

SPORTSWATCH

Hitachi Criterium Grand Prix goes to Tarlac

CENTRAL LUZON CYCLING FANS CONVERGE IN TARLAC CITY TOMorrow for the Mayor Jeremy Mendiola Cup, fourth leg of the Hitachi National Criterium Grand Prix. Project events director Ric Rodriguez thanked Mendiola for staging the races. "It is our privilege and pleasure to bring this event to Tarlac, a recognized cycling hub," said Lyn Hotel, Hitachi Air-conditioning Group president. The tough criterium races are sponsored by Grand Buddy and Hitachi Air-conditioning. Pro-Am Competitions, Inc. in coordination with the Tarlac City Sports headed by Arnold Rodriguez will be staged on a 3.8 kilometer circuit along the Mega Aquino Boulevard.

Pampanga's Canlas dominates PCAP stagfest

SPEED CANLAS OF PAMPANGA LED THE OPENING LEG OF THE Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 9-ding Derby held Sept. 8 at the Makati Coliseum. Canlas clocked the fastest time of 9.68 on Lamor steps acquired from Richard Rudy of Alabama in winning the slugfest and took the early lead in the PCAP Cocker of the Year race. Rolin Lorenzo with my 9.91, entry finished second. The derby owner/second leg artists on Monday at Makati Coliseum with more 70 fights.

SJC anniversary derby finals kick off today

THE ELIMINATION TRIALS OF SAN JUAN COLLEGE'S 2ND ANNIVERSARY 9-Ding Derby begins at 2 p.m. today with 94 fights lined up on the 69 Sagupaan Complex 3000 as main location. After two night days, only men out of 128 participants remained undefeated with three wins each: Richard Baker, Eric delos Reyes, Herman Herrera, Jay Bata, Pepito Rigo, Ali Dorano, Buddy Hidalgo Jr. and Noel Rodolfo Pineda Jaro combined. The champion will receive a silver cup and a guaranteed prize of P2 million.

PSG annual stag battles get under way

THE FIRST BATCH OF 176 PARTICIPANTS PLUNGED INTO ACTION IN THE Annual PSG 5-Stag Derby which gets going at 4 p.m. today at Pasay Square Garden. Open at Rs. 1,200 million, the event ladies a guaranteed prize of P1.2 million and is hosted by veteran breeder Edgar Corpuz. The second round of eliminations is set Monday while the championship battles follow on Sept. 29. For inquiries, call 840-0800 or 840-8838.

ALL EYES ARE ON Legaspi City Mayor Noel Rosal speaks in yesterday's press conference for the race. Flanking (from left) coordinator Ruston Bustamante, Mile Sports' Pat Dee-ong, national race organizer Rudy Biscocho and Mile QK sprinkler for South Luzon Leslie Tiong.

Canada, Vargas defend Milo run titles Sunday

ALVIN CANADA AND ARMELITA VARGAS stake their titles when the Legaspi City leg of the 31st National Milo Marathon eliminations kicks off on Sunday in front of City Hall.

Organized by the provincial and city sports council with Leslie Bello, executive assistant to the city mayor as project chair, the fifteen leg has drawn 4,000 runners, with 10 schools participating in the cheer dance competition.

The race is the 15th stop of the 22-leg leading to the grand finals of the country's largest running footrace that began in 1974 with Hermenigildo Throng, a golf caddy, winning the inaugural edition three decades ago.

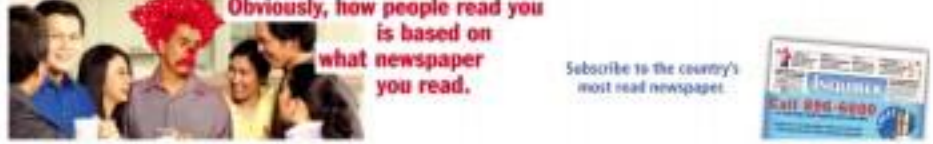
Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, Vice Gov. Rhoda Abel and Legaspi Mayor Noel S. Rosal have been assisted in the the running gun for the 21K, 5K and 3K events at exactly 6 a.m. They will also be on hand to award the prizes to top winners at the awards rites at 7:30 a.m.

Canada and Vargas are expected to encounter tough opposition from veterans and up-and-coming runners who are out to mail their reign as king and queen of the half marathon in Albay.

Crack runners from six provinces competing the Bicol region are seeing action in the main 21-K race that will pass through Legaspi's major thoroughfares.

The champions in the men's and women's division will win P10,000 each and, along with the runner-up and third placers, earn a trip to the grand finals, featuring provincial champions, on Nov. 10 in Manila.

"I expect an interesting race," said Milo Bicol executive director Ric Ian Ong.



3 Iranian GMs, 4 others join Asian chess tourney

By Ray Luarca

GUADALAJARA, Spain (AFP) — Top Iranian chess grandmaster Ehsan Ghaem Maghami and six other ranked Asian players are joining the Sub Asian individual Chess Championships set Sept. 19-30 in the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City, Cebu.

Among Maghami, who votes in the ranking of 2618, are fellow GMs Ehsan Ahmadzadeh (Elo 2546) and Amir Hoghooi (2490). International Master Morteza Mahjoobin (2470) and Fide Master Homayoun Tamjidi (2391). Javad Moghadam (2493) and Mehrdad Ardebili (2407).

The Iranians' confirmation raised to 36 the number of foreign entries vying for the $40,000 total purse and one slot in the World Chess Cup slated in Kalmykia from late 23-Dec. 18.

Bidding for one of the 11 round robin tournament are Tarin Chopyand, two-up China, which is fielding 12 players, eight of whom are GMs and seven possessing 2600+, which is sending 14 players, including seven GMs and four IMs.

Also expected to contend are Bu Xiangzhi, Oliver Dimakiling, Ismail Iman (and Indo-Canadian Indonesia Sutanto Tjahaja (2511), Ukraine's Vassily Ivanchuk (2707), Vietnam's Le Quang Liem (2677), Uzbekistan's Anton Filippov.

AFP president Prospero "Pros" Pichay and international general Major Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino lauded the support of the Cebu government under Gov. Gwen Garcia and local organizers led by Boom Lim and Secretary Alberto Reyes. Bonifia for the interzone is provided by the Asian Chess Federation.

Meanwhile, an 8-hour 9-round tournament by the Fide (World Chess Federation) will be held in the next weeks from Sept. 20-21.

McLaren fined $100M

Loses constructors' points in 'spy' case aftermath

PARIS, (UNDATED) AUGUST 29, (AFP) — The other was around.

Accused of using leaked secret data from its main rival Ferrari, the Formula One team McLaren was hit with a record $100-million fine Thursday by the World Motor Sport Council in the biggest scandal to hit auto racing's premier circuit.

Although McLaren driver Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso escaped punishment Thursday, the espionage claims have overshadow upon and tainted this year's lead in the drivers' standings.

The team, also stripped of its constructors' points, already was looking at options that it had used team orders — a tactic which at the would see once this season, from switching a non-scoring driver's car to help the other's championship chances.

The F1 race body in July when a 780-page technical dossier of Ferrari cars was found at the home of McLaren's chief designer, Mike Coughlan, who was later suspended. Ferrari's mechanic Nigel Stepney, also allegedly supplied the documents, was fired.

McLaren escaped censure by the World Motor Sport Council in July due to insufficient evidence that Formula technical documents were scanned. But Ferrari's evidence that Stepney and Coughlan had approached rivals from Mark Pry in June about joining the F1 team collapsed up the first concrete one Ferrari's intellectual property.

The $100-million fine imposed on McLaren is 9 times in per from the previous F1 record ($2.5 million).

Still, Ferrari argued the fine is effectively halved because McLaren doesn't have to forfeit any revenue its earned this season. He added that the financial strength of McLaren also would help ease the impact of the fine.

"We still effectively have to see an office the revenue from the points earned to date," he said. "That will probably effectively halve the cost of the fined that we ultimately have to cope...if we eliminate to accept the fine."

"We were over roughly $900 million to $900 million a year and we are debt free, so we're a very strong company (with) phenomenal growth."

And a likely result: that McLaren the Formula One driver title.

Hamilton and Alonso are well ahead of Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen and Felipe Massa with four races left.

Hamilton, in his debut Formula One season, leads with 92 points, followed by two-time champion Alonso with 89. Raikkonen (74) and Massa (63) are third and fourth. At Spa, Alonso and Hamilton finished 1-2 as Hamilton's Italian GP—in Ferrari's home track of Monza.

FIA said it did not penalize McLaren's drivers "due to exceptional circumstances" because they provided crucial evidence in the investigation.

The Motorsport Sport Council ruled in July that McLaren was guilty of fraudulent conduct for possessing the Ferrari documents, but didn't punish the team because there was insufficient evidence the asserted was endorsed. AP

Russia, Spain book Fiba Europe semifinal tickets

ANCHOR Kirilenko of Russia shares down a loose ball.

MADRID, SPAIN—TONY PARKER steered a game-tying free throw with seven seconds to play, and Russia came on to beat France 75-74 and reach the semifinals of the European Basketball Championship for the first time in 14 years.

Parker tossed his second straight before Zoltan Padissis made two free throws at the other end for Russia.

Parker went hard at the line on the ensuing possession, making his first attempt before purposefully missing the second. But Russia grabbed the rebound and Sergey Monya hit both free throws after being fouled with one second left on the clock.

"Of course I'm—we're—disappointed. The team wins the tournament we were aiming for," the San Antonio Spurs guard said. "Every time you lose it's hard. You can't compare one loss to another."

Spain moved a step closer to becoming only the third team to claim the European crown while holding the world title with a 85-55 win over Germany.

Jose Calderon scored 17 to help Spain avenge a 74-73 semifinal loss to the Germans two years ago in the European Championship.

"Spain is the heavy favorite. They've got a lot going for them. They've got a lot of shooters (and) we didn't fight the way we should have fought for our country," Dirk Nowitzki said. He scored 14 points.

"We worked up a couple of times and couldn't catch together and fight like we were supposed to fight."

Spain used its fast break to double a 23-point halftime lead to 64-38 with 11:55 to go in the third quarter, forcing timeouts by coach Pepu Hernandez and Jose Calderon added 12 points against his former team.

Rudy Fernandez and Jose Carlos Navarro added 11 points apiece for the Spain.

"We're exactly where we want to be. The team did an extraordinary job in all aspects, from covering each other up defense to getting out. It was a real team concept," Spain coach Pepu Hernandez said. "Really, those were moments when you looked out on the court and saw something spectacular going on."

Parker's 3-pointer with 2:26 to play had tied it at 68-68, but Jon Robert Holden's two free throws gave the following play put Russia ahead for good. AP

SPORTS

RP team standouts strike

By Ramina L. Asuncion

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TEAM TOPPED their respective seniors events but two top seeds in the juniors division took early exits yesterday in the 2007 Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Ellipticina Activity Center in Makati City.

RP team's Manuel Rivero Jr., Elaine Alora and Isaac Cordan pounded out contrasting wins to add to the easy victory of national pool member Gwentjie Anne-Marie Tiu today.

But junior flyweight top seed Sara Carlo Santos and flyweight Alexander Sheila were ousted.

Rivero, bronze medalist in the 2006 Doha Asian Games, had to go through sudden death at 2:2 before beating La Salle's Dennis Rosales in the senior men's featherweight final.

Alora also took great efforts in the last round to beat UP-Diliman's Shaira Mae Pelias, 5-4, and bag the senior ladies' lightweight gold.

Jr. Bendik Ian Sermeno booted UP-Diliman's Khlide Arellano, 7-3, in the senior ladies' featherweight final while Catalan waphal UP-Diliman's Abigail Santos, 3-1, to snatch the flyweight gold.

Sienne of La Immaculada Concepcion fell to Ateneo's Peradel Dacanay 3-2, in the quarterfinals. Earlier, he survived a 1-1 standoff with JRU's Mark Jan Calleo to vote in sudden death.

Sheila was a no-show in his fight against second ranked Leonardo Arevalo of Ateneo.

Dacanay advanced to the semifinals against Waldor Aaron Luke Gabriel Abiera while Arevalo over fights JRU's James De Lucanlaga.

Other senior winners last Thursday were San Sebastian College's Jose Manuel Enriquez who barely escaped frustrated Alfredo Jr., 2-1, of UST to cop the featherweight gold and Carlos Padilla after seven in sudden death after a 2-2 score over Ingkor. Zi Ernesto de Guzman in the flyweight finals.

Marlon Awando produced a gold medal for UST in the light welter category with a 5-1 victory over teammate Paulo Angelo and Jr. Bendik's Edmon Ilagan outclassed Raymund Villajar of Defenders, 11-1 in the flyweight final.

REGION: I's Jhed John Ilagan (right) fights Lima Anna a opening 10th kick against Gerald Gora into of Central Sper in their bantamweight fight. Ilagan won, 8-5. GERVACIO LANA

PREMIUM AGED BY PEDRO DOMECQ

Master Brandy Maker Pedro Domecq proudly bestows his name on this extraordinary Solera Reserva.

Aged longer than standard brandies, Domecq 1820's deep amber liquid delivers an exquisite sensations, enticing aroma and distinctly full-bodied finish for a brandy experience like no other.

Squires seals NCAA title duel versus Staglets

By Marc Reyes

SEETHE LATE TEARS

Lemon, delayed by a persistent San Beda side, finally made it to the NCAA juniors basketball finals following a 96-82 victory yesterday at the Arena in San Juan.

Guard Philip Ian Jose unloaded 13 of his 20 points in the third quarter as the Squires headed a trip to the best-of-three championship series with early qualifier and two-time defending champion San Sebastian.

"I believe did it, especially in the first half," said Lemon coach Oliver Lameta. "I'm glad that the boys didn't let up."

The Squires are thus back in the finals after a three-year absence.

The Lineup

LEMON (96) - San Jose 20, Ao. Jose 14, Bedar 12, A. Ao. 9, Rumaya 7, Nonan 6, Alcabedo 5, Dalisay 2

SAN BEDA (82) - Ama 24, Pamplan 20, Dedo 11, Lozano 7, Jimenez 6, Bengal 5, Endrina 4, Montero 3, Mendoza 2, Ayan 1, Serrano 0, Arana 0

Quarters: 23-27, 52-42, 74-62, 96-82

Bustamante, Alcano lead faves' romp

TWO-TIME DEFENDING CHAMPION Francisco "Django" Bustamante and double world champion Dennis Alcano were out of their first postings to lead the favorites' march in the 4th Sun Miguel Dew (SMC) Philippine Open 9-ball Championship at the Dragon Hall in Silverstar Mall, Julia Vargas ave. Ortigas Center between SMC Pharmaco and Theobromine.

Bustamante dumped unheralded Jimmy Ocasio, 9-1, while Alcano doubled Eduardo Sarache, 9-3, to arrange a second round clash with 2006 Doha Asian Games 9-ball gold medalist Antonio Gabica, who beat 2006 SEAG Asian 9-ball bet by veteran Candy Valle, 9-7.

The 42-year-old Bustamante set up a second round clash with Steve Cruz, who nipped 13-year-old Johann Chua, 9-8, in the inaugural of the P1.5-million tournament organized by Solar Sports and supported by Pepsi Sports.

Also in the winning column were reigning National Open champion Lee Vann Corteza, who trounced Roberto Gomez, 9-5, and 2007 SEAG Triple-pool.com champion Dennis Orcollo, who beat Elmer Salangsang, 9-4.

Little known Jonabel Mancio, the 2006 Kuwait 9-ball tour winner, provided the tournament's first shocker when he relegated Filipino legendary Jose "Sonny" Parico to the loser's bracket following a 9-5 triumph.

Corteza will battle Mancio in the next round. Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Eagles hunt . . .

| Principe left

cuse, 69-73 Thursday afternoon.

Adamson and ateneo University of the Philippines try to close out their disappointing seasons earlier on a bright note when they clash in the 2 p.m. contest.

The Falcons' only win in UAAP to come in the suspension of the Maroons, who have lost all 11 of their games, sparking rumors of a shakeup in the coaching staff headed by Joe Lipa.

Chris Tiu, Eric Salamat, Paul Asoa and leading Rookie of the Year candidate Rich Long will spearhead the Eagles, the losing finishers last year who will go into the game seeking to extend a five-game winning streak.

Nathaniel Dizon of out of the race last week. Marcing R. Gozalo

SPORTS
Editor: Rodjohn S. Matanzo Assistant Editor: Francis T. J. Ochoa

JAY MEYES (left) and the Ateneo Blue Eagles would rather bump into Rico Maierhofer and the Green Archers when the stakes are much higher.

WHAT'S INSIDE
RP Am: Lahajo takes out Bayron /A28

Eagles hunt down No. 2 berth vs Bulldogs today

SCOTTDALE ATENEO IS CLOSE TO JUAN ANDY Owen a fight, but The Blue Eagles obviously would not want to play La Salle again—archrivals it's for the highest stakes.

The Eagles sing it out with National U in the Ninoy Aquino Stadium today for the all-important No. 2 spot in the stepladder semifinals of the 70th UAAP men's basketball championships.

A win will pull the Eagles down to a playoff rank—their ideal rivals, the Green Archers, a one-dimensional team that does not want to happen until the series, which it will have a better-than-edge if it wins or it goes today.

Ateneo, powered by two elimination round wins over the Archers, is at 9-4 and a win tonight will seal the No. 2 ranking behind the immaculate 14-0 slate of University of the East, the automatic first finalist.

By things stand, No. 2 will repay a lot of perks, as the team will play the winner of the No. 3 and No. 4 teams, needing to win just once to advance opposite the Red Warriors.

A win by Ateneo will automatically make La Salle the No. 3 seed.

The Final Four slot will be decided on Monday when defending champion Ateneo battles and the Eastern clash at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

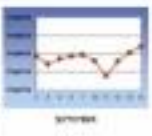
The traveling Tigers gained making the standings complicated...and advancing to the semifinals tonight after beating to the Tama-

(A23) A28

BUSINESS

OFW remittances up 4.6% to $1.1B in July

Peso rises to 46.30 to $1



By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY ROSE for the third straight day to end the week at 46.30 to a dol-

7-month total inflow rose 16% to $8.1B

By Doris C. Dumlao

MONEY SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers rose by 4.6 percent in July to $1.1 billion over a year ago as the banking system intensified efforts to capture more of these funds.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that the July inflows brought the total remittances in the first seven months to $8.1 billion, 16 percent higher year-on-year.

The growth remained above the SGP's 14-percent reported increase for 2006 despite the slowdown in the deployment of new workers abroad.

"Sustained growth in remittances was achieved as banks continued to provide customers

Brittany BEAUTIFUL
A Vista Land Company

A SWISS HAVEN WELCOMES.
THE SCENT OF PINE SURROUNDS, REFRESHES.
COOL AIR WHISPERS.

Spend glorious weekends in your weekend getaway at Montreux Ville, Crosswinds' newest enclave.

With Crosswinds, Brittany defines beauty beyond the obvious by bringing together the careful choice of location, the magnificent view and the exclusive ambiance in Montreux Ville, the newest Custom Home Site located in one of the most exclusive areas of Crosswinds. The perfect place for your Swiss-inspired second home amidst the pines.

Montreux Ville complements the luxurious offerings of Crosswinds starting with Swiss-chalet type homes—the Swiss Quadrinas™, the Grand Quarter™, Deer Pointe™, and the other custom home sites of Pine Grove and Peak View.

CROSSWINDS
TAGAYTAY

Discover the beauty of Crosswinds. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 - 850 6986 Click www.brittany.com.ph

Superferry, Cebu Pac cut fares

By Rica T. Obinuelos

THE EARLY SHOPPING COMPANY SuperFerry said budget airline Cebu Pacific are running holiday travelers.

"Book your trips early to enjoy bigger savings," said Andrew Doyle, SuperFerry assistant vice president for sales and marketing.

SuperFerry has just announced its last Trade Trade Sail Sale for the year that will run until Sept. 30. The sailing period is from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2007.

A ticket from Manila to the Visayas now sells for P899, while a ticket from Manila to Mindanao sells for P799.

Also, early-booked tickets will give one customers the opportunity to make advantage of our sale prices with the flexibility of not having their travel dates on a later time. On top of that, customers can have to have the benefit of a longer allowance," Doyle said.

Meanwhile, budget carrier Cebu Pacific (CEB) dished year round "low" fares for most of its regional routes.

Starting yesterday, the lowest one-way year-round fares for Manila-Guangzhou, Manila-Xiamen and Manila-Taipei flights were cut by half to P999 from P1,999.

For the Manila-Bangkok and Davao-Hong Kong lines, the lowest fares are now P1,499 from P3,499.

For Manila-Hong Kong, Cebu-Hong Kong and Manila-Macau, fares were slashed down from P1,999 to P1,499.

The Manila-Jakarta, Manila-Shanghai and Davao-Singapore fares were slashed by 30 percent to a year-round one-way fare of P2,999 from P4,999.

Cebu Pacific vice president Candice Iyog said, "We are having an unprecedented reduction of our year-round fare. We want the public to realize that they no longer have to wait for Christmas or summer to take their vacation."

DTI scraps import fees on garment firms' inputs

Gov't looking for more ways to help local industry

By Roland M. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry is looking for more ways to support local garments exporters after it reduced the requirements for importation of raw materials, according to Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino.

In a statement, Aquino said the DTI was following through with efforts to boost the country's national competitiveness.

In a resolution of the Committee on Trade Import Services Special Committee dated July 1, the agency said exporters who import raw materials for garment exports through the bonded warehouse system no longer required to apply for import licenses before each inbound shipment.

The GTEB Division is a frontline service of the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion, which is part of the DTI.

Also, the resolution scrapped fees for the following transactions: P50 for registration of subcontractor; P100, accreditation of subcontractor; P500, bonded manufacturing warehouse; and, P1,000, customs bonded manufacturing warehouse.

"The DTI will continue to look for ways that would improve the Philippine business environment, reduce transaction cost, and make our export products more competitive in the world market," Aquino said.

"The elimination or reduction of export-related fees and charges would help in reducing the time and cost of processing export documents, greatly easing time that can make our exporters more competitive," he added.

DTI data show that garments is the second major manufactured export product of the Philippines after semiconductors, accounting for 3.27 percent of total exports or $1.53 billion in 2006.

Garments exports grew by 12.71 percent in 2006 from the same period in 2005.

Further, Aquino said Administrative order 146 (now a series of executive orders) and other directives to improve the efficiency of government services through the reduction of red tape.

One is EO No. 980, which exempts qualified exporters participating in international trade fairs, exhibitions, selling missions and trade negotiations from paying travel taxes.

Another is EO 956, which directed all government agencies and corporations to eliminate the fees and charges imposed on export clearances, inspections, permits, certificates and other documentation requirements.

A third is EO 957, which established an omnibus rapid task force composed of full time members from the Presidential Management Staff, Commission on Information and Communications Technology, DTI, Export Development Council Secretariat and National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Erratum

Please be advised that the HP print ad that was published in the September 14, 2007 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer reflected the erroneous price of the product featured.

The correct price is as follows:
P15,990 for the HP iPAQ 512 VOICE MESSENGER

Please be guided accordingly.

Thank you.

OFW remittances up 4.6% to $1.1B in July

From page B1

Filipinos and their beneficiaries positive access to financial services, including their savings and investment needs," Tetangco said.

To centralize, banks continued to establish strategic partnering agreements in countries with high density of Filipino workers. The increasing number of remittance centers and in-site overseas facilitated the transfer of remittances including, in turn, to the lower cost of these type of transactions," he said.

The bulk of remittances during the period came from the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Channel Islands, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Republic of Hong Kong.

The BSP chief also noted that the remittances from overseas Filipinos had remained strong even as the total number of deployed workers declined.

Based on data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the total number of workers deployed from January to July fell 3.7 percent to 640,808 from a year ago.

By type of worker, the cumulative number of land-based and sea-based workers totaled 492,596 and 148,212, respectively. These were lower by 2.1 percent and 6.6 percent from these levels in the same period last year.

But for the month of July, total deployment rebounded by 6.5 percent from a year ago, reversing the contraction seen in June 2007.

Land-based workers increased by 3.0 percent during the month while the number of sea-based workers also grew by 14.4 percent during the month.

The Department of Labor and Employment noted an increase in the deployment of skilled workers during the first seven months, notably to Canada, Italy and New Zealand.

Tetangco said this increase in deployment was expected to lift the level of remittances in the near term.

Peso rises to 46.30 to $1

From page B1

ber, reflecting a rebound in Wall Street as well as fresh buying interest in Asian markets ahead of an expected interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve next week.

The local currency closed at its intra-day high and gained 17 centavos from Thursday's finish of 46.47, likewise ending on an improved risk appetite for regional assets.

"The peso was stronger because overseas we are expecting a cut by the US Federal Reserve," said Banco de Oro EPCI chief economist Jonathan Ravelas.

He said the peso would likely trade between 46.25 and 46.35 peso levels ahead of the Sept. 18 meeting of the US central bank's open market committee.

How the market will behave afterward, he said, would depend on the extent of the forthcoming rate cut. "We'll see because it might not be enough," Ravelas said.

Expectations that the US Fed would cut its benchmark interest rate next week to offset the liquidity squeeze caused by a drama in the US market embroiled investors to scout for bargains in Asian markets, including currencies, bonds and stocks.

An improved outlook on the US credit markets despite continuing problems in the housing sector also contributed to a general rebound by major currencies, including the peso.

The local currency that sustained the gains seen since Wednesday, when the financial markets cheered the nation's peaceful acceptance of a guilty verdict on ousted President Joseph Estrada, who was convicted of for large-scale corruption for the last six years.

Since Wednesday when the Sandiganbayan convicted Estrada on plunder charges, the peso has gained by 62 centavos or 1.7 percent.

US crisis seen to have minimal effect on RP

With country in pink of fiscal health, think tank expects less risks

By Michelle V. Reyes

THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S fiscal conditions and a healthy balance of payments (BOP) position have partially shielded the country from the ill effects of a volatile external environment.

Foreign investors have become risk averse—fueled by the woes over the US subprime market—to the disadvantage of many emerging economies having the same credit ratings as the Philippines.

But overall, the impact on the domestic economy is seen to be minimal, according to Global Source, a think tank based in New York City.

Government finance officials earlier said interest rates on Philippine bonds have remained above the international market but become pricey.

But Global Source said that the increases in spreads on Philippine bonds since the subprime market woes erupted in July was tempered by macroeconomic developments that investors deemed positive.

Global Source said spreads on bonds had increased by as much as 60 basis points from July to August, but this would have been high- er if low macroeconomic fundamentals.

The group cited the government's ability to rein in budget deficit over the last few years. Global Source noted that the budget deficit was equivalent to 3 percent of gross national product in 2002, but dropped to only one percent of GNP last year.

"The risks at this time are on the low side, in our view," Global source said in its recent report on the Philippine economy. "The government is no longer grappling with a ruinous budget deficit."

The think tank noted that the government's healthy BOP position has allowed it to borrow more from domestic investors and stay away from the volatile external market at the moment.

In January, way before the US subprime market woes surfaced, the Philippine government had already completed its foreign, commercial borrowing program for the year by selling $1 billion in global bonds in the international market.

The government is therefore not pressured to raise more funds from abroad for its expenditure requirements for the remaining months of the year.

"Healthy balance of payments inflows, especially on the current account side, have allowed the BSP to accumulate reserves of $35 billion as of August 2007 ... [T]ogether with $3.8 billion in foreign currency deposits, there is enough cushi on the system to ease any worries about debt service capacity in our view," Global Source said.

Earlier, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas gave assurance that the domestic banking sector was protected against the ongoing crisis in the US subprime markets.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. recently said that the exposure of Philippine banks to the US subprime market amounts to only $260 million, accounting for 0.2 percent of their combined assets.

S&P affirms sovereign ratings for RP

STANDARD & POOR'S RATINGS SERVICES today affirmed its "BB-/B" foreign currency and "BB+/B" local currency issuer credit ratings on the Philippines.

The outlook is stable.

"Although still among the most vulnerable sovereigns due to its high external leverage, the growing strength of the Philippines' economic fundamentals and the attendant reduction in public sector borrowing requirements provide adequate countercyclicality to ring global risk aversion and ebbing liquidity," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Agnes Bonard.

The positive trends in domestic fundamentals are reflected in the sovereign's increasing external strength. Balance of payments for the first half of 2007 showed an overall surplus of $1.2 billion, compared to $0.7 billion for the whole of 2006, pushing foreign exchange reserves to an all-time high of $33.2 billion as of end August.

This is equal to 5.6 months of imports coverage, and 3.9 times the country's short-term external debt based on original maturity. The country's external liquidity position is benefiting from robust remittance and FDI flows and lower foreign currency financing requirements.

This supports a strong peso, which due to the recent market turbulence slipped 4.5 percent in its current six-week trend. However, the peso is expected to resume its appreciating path, helping to keep inflation low and moderate the country's still significant debt service costs.

Reuters

PLDT divvies up profit

By Kiat T. Chichioco

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has declared fresh cash payouts to stockholders.

The telco yesterday said that its board of directors declared cash dividends during a meeting earlier in the day.

Dividends of P4.675 will be paid per outstanding share of the company's former Y-common- stock, while holders of its series IV nonvotable preferred stock will get $0.09 per share. These will be paid on Oct. 31 to holders on record as of Oct. 4.

Dividends of P1 per share will also be paid to holders of the ten-percent cumulative preferred stock series C2,C3 and C4 P1 per share. These will be paid on Oct. 31 to holders on record as of Oct. 4.

PLDT said the dividends will be funded by the telco's unrestricted retained earnings as of Dec. 31, 2006.

In July, pre-need sales went up

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SALES OF PRE-NEED firms jumped 38.4 percent to P3.67 billion in July this year largely due to the performance of pension and life plans.

In July 2006, pre-need sales stood at P3.517 billion.

Data from the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that pension plans sales, which made up 64 percent of total pre-need sales, grew 35.6 percent to P1.32 billion in July from P973.55 million in the same month last year.

Life plans sales meanwhile showed the sharpest growth at 63.5 percent to July to P532 million from P315.3 million in the same month last year. Life plans accounted for 17 percent of total sales for the month.

Education plans saw sales up 20.77 percent to P106.76 million in July from P108.54 million last year.

Education plans made up 39 percent of total sales in July.

For the first seven months, pre-need sales grew a mere 7.2 percent to P11.995 billion, from P11.138 billion in 2006.

Education plans dipped 19.57 percent to P2.198 billion in the seven-month period, from P2.424 billion in 2006.

To curb corruption, BOC seeks higher budget

By Michelle V. Reyes

CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER NAPOLEON Morales wants a higher budget to professionalize the ranks of the Bureau of Customs, perceived to be one of the most corrupt government agencies.

Morales refused Finance Secretary Margarito Teves' earlier statement, where he called for the rationalization of the organizational setup of revenue collecting agencies, including the BOC, and exemption of their employees from the Salary Standardization law.

"If we trust and reward our men better, they will perform better," Morales said in a statement.

The Customs chief said that, with better compensation, the BOC would be able to encourage its employees to attain their collection targets and become more professional in doing their day-to-day tasks.

Morales noted that the BOC's budget was barely enough to pay salaries and cover expenses of day-to-day operations. He said the BOC needed more funds to train personnel and improve facilities.

The BOC's budget for this year was set at P1.2 billion, equivalent to one-half percent of its P228.2 billion revenue collection target for 2007. Of the total BOC budget, Morales said, P900 million was allocated for salaries of its more than 4,000 employees, while the remaining P300 million was earmarked for operational expenses.

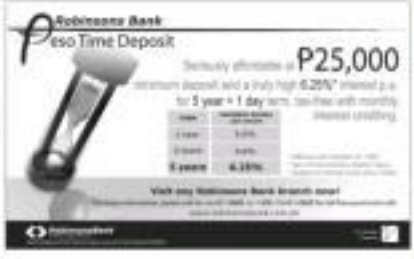
Morales said that, in neighboring countries, the budget allotted for a customs department is equivalent to one percent of its revenue collection target for a year.

He said a higher budget would be necessary to realize his agenda of improving the corporate culture in the BOC and making its employees more professional in the delivery of services to the public.

The national government is relying on the BOC, the second biggest revenue earner, to deliver on its collection targets and help the administration attain its deficit reduction goals.

Morales earlier said the BOC was working toward fully automating its audit and inspection systems to curb the perennial problem of smuggling. The BOC hopes to avail of official development assistance from foreign creditors to purchase needed equipment.

The BOC has acquired 31 X-ray machines through a foreign loan, to hasten the process of inspecting containers of imported goods. Morales said the BOC needs 15 more X-ray machines to be fitted in other ports.



OPEN TO SERVE YOU!!!

TriNoma
Ayala Mall

1st Level, TRINOMA
EDSA corner North Avenue
Quezon City

BESA'S
Since 1935

BESA'S SHOES AND SERVICES
"We make shoes and bags look new again, the right way!"

Offering complete shoe repairs, renewal, shine, color, re-sole, protector, bags, luggage, attache cases, metal parts, buckles replacements etc. Using all imported materials as good as the original or even better.

We also offer Made to Order Footwear, Measure to fit shoes for men, ladies and children. All Works Guaranteed for comfort, durability and style. Signature and branded catalogs available. European leathers and rubber soling similar to High fashion brands use for a very reasonable price.

Visit us now and we shall be glad to be of service to you!

OTHER BRANCHES

Makati
Glorietta 4 Food Court Center
Ayala Alabang Village
Tel. 807-4784

Greenhills Shopping Center
Tel. 724-2163

Alabang
Festival Mall, Filinvest
Tel. No. 807-4784

Iloilo Esplanade 1
Tel. No. 033-320-2012

San Juan
Tel. No. 726-0949

Quezon City
Tel. No. 807-2172

Tagaytay Point Distributor
Tel. No. 046-4867

Manila
TUESDAY, SEPT. 18, 2007
The Peninsula Manila
Ayala Avenue at Makati Avenue
1226 Makati City
Manila, Philippines
17:00 – 21:30

THE MBA TOUR
Your future begins here

For a list of participating business schools, conference schedule and to register to attend, visit www.TheMBATour.com

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail us at science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Cesar D. Manglal-ag

Making heart surgery affordable to the poor

By Charles E. Rohac

WE ALL KNOW TIME IN the Philippines, any type of heart surgery is expensive—from hundreds of thousands to millions of pesos—and is way beyond the capacity for most Filipinos patients to afford.

The situation is even more serious in India where its population experiences coronary artery disease at up to low times the rate of the world population, but like us, most Indians also cannot afford to see a doctor, let alone receive life-saving treatment.

However, this nation of 1.13 billion people has Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty, a British-trained cardiologist, who somehow found out how to reduce the cost and increase the access of people to quality heart treatment.

As one of India's leading heart surgeons, Shetty helped establish a network of heart care units in 25 remote government hospitals around India that are video-linked via satellite to his hospital, the Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Medical Sciences in Bangalore and allows him to consult patients who'd otherwise never have access to the medical advice of specialists.

Keeping treatment cost low

The network is able to keep treatment costs low by quality-of-care high by implementing cost-saving methods, such as increasing the volume of patients served and accepting donations.

"So it's also enabled by establishing a revolutionary "micro-health" scheme called 'Yeshasvini that covers thousands of farmers in Karnataka [a state in Southern India], who for a mere 3 Rupees per month (around 5%), can get a free cardiac surgery that would cost $30,000 (P1.7 million) in a U.S. hospital).

"The good news is that Shetty will be attending 10 Manila in October—the first occasion in his mission in combining medicine and technology in a country with a large concentration of poor people in the world," submitted Evelyn Singson, chair of the 6th Annual International Medical Practitioners (IMP) International CEO conference.

The IMP is a 37-year-old management organization whose more than 700 members have corporate, service and medical executive officers, chief operations officers and other top management practitioners from the top local and multinational companies operating in the Philippines.

The conference will be held at the Makati Shangri-La from Oct. 2 to 3 (other details available at www.impceoconference.com).

Rare occasion

"This will be a rare occasion for Filipino medical practitioners to learn valuable secrets from Shetty's experience in making heart surgery available to the masses," Singson said.

She added that the Philippines will learn a lot from Shetty, who together with his team at the Narayana Hrudayalaya Institute of Medical Sciences, has been saving the lives of thousands of heart patients in India who get quality free or subsidized treatment regardless of economic status or geographic location.

Founded by Shetty in 2001, the institute and its network of hospitals around India performs 30 heart surgeries a day making it one of the largest in the world.

Almost half of the patients are children and babies with no person of the treatment being provided below cost or for free.

FIVE BANGALORE-based Narayana Hrudayalaya Hospital that Shetty founded has a network of coronary care units around India all video-linked via satellite so that patients in far-flung rural areas will have access to specialists' medical advice.

Fun with problem solving

PROBLEM SOLVING IS THE heart of math. Math is aimed not so much at speedy calculations, but to develop a rational mind, perseverance and discipline, and reasonable ways to tackle real-life problems.

This morning at Powerhandex in Carmelray 3, Makati, I will conduct a session on problem solving for educators. Problem solving is not easy but here are some psychological strategies we can use.

Think out of the box

Look beyond the obvious. Consider unexpected answers. Take this problem, which I included in my newsletter "Why Is Math So Hard? And Many Other Tips to Keeping a Sound Body and a Sound Mind" (Straight Talk series, Book 14, April, 2007):

Mr. Bayot has three sons named me. My three sons are named me. My name does not use me. What am I?

Think about this for a bit, and if you are really stumped, ask your child. Children are less fearful of making mistakes, and they have not yet lapsed into routine patterns of thought, so it is easier for them to deal with unconventional notions.

Keep an open mind. Do not take things at face value. For instance, my "wife" five times. Then answer this quickly: What do cows drink?

Cows, of course, do not drink milk.

Try this problem: You are at a child whose three sons are by pure facts and pure mathematics. You must Rita, who says that the club manager told her that he was a liar. Is Rita a liar or a truth teller? How would you know?

Get your hands dirty

Brainstorm possible scenarios. Get your hands dirty by trying possible answers, by drawing graphs, or sometimes even by acting out the problem. No matter how complex it looks. Life frequently presents us situations where we just have to sit down, take a deep breath, and plug away at a solution.

How get some paper and solve this problem: An apartment has eight floors. The fifth floor has the only suite with two bedrooms. Mrs. Bebot has a baby and cannot carry the stroller upstairs. Mr. and Mrs. Bigmans find climbing difficult since they are old. Mr. Ing likes the peaceful living on the top floor. Mrs. Cruz and her daughter need two bedrooms. Mr. & Mrs. Home live just below Mr. Ang. Mrs. Caring loves her elevator. Mr. Gazmen and below Mrs. Dy. Mr. and Mrs. Sola live above Mr. & Mrs. Bigmans. Who lives where?

Make a figure showing the possible locations, and I am sure that before long, you will be able to solve it.

Look for patterns. Life and our world are full of patterns. After getting your hands dirty, look for patterns and emerge from the problem.

For example, you have a hint and some answers. If you shout the first letter at exactly noon and shout one answer every minute after that until 12:05, how many answers will you have shot?

Develop number sense

Notice that your answer makes sense. I am not when I see student answers like "Minus 3 apples" or "minus 3.1 chance of an event happening." Men are not counted as decimals, and the chance of an occurrence cannot be less than zero.

Take this problem, which may need a bit of mental math. Make sure that your answer is reasonable.

Two bought 2 cows, but because of an emergency, she had to sell them quickly. She sold them for P500 each. On one cow, she made a profit of 10 percent and on the other, she lost 20 percent. Did she make or lose money on the whole deal?

These puzzles have appeared in this column in the past, and many readers have successfully solved them. For more puzzles, refer to the books in my Straight Talk series, available in National and Powerbooks. Or e-mail me (philmath@yahoo.com) for ordering information.

Next time, some research and some heuristics at the Philippine Normal University.

(Dr. Ricardo Ang is president of Philippine Normal University and author of the Straight Talk series of books. He is also a consultant to Powerhandex Inc. and Powerbooks. He can be reached at philmath@yahoo.com.)

Personal code

DISCOVER

Maxine Santos Ballon

IF YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT J. CRAIG Venter is made of—literally—check out the interactive poster detailing his complete genome at the 7Sail Biology website (sparkleads.http://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/supplinfo/plos.0050254/sd001.php). The process of sequencing this man's genome is laid out in the accompanying PLoS Biology paper by a large consortium of ethnic work for Venter at the eponymous J. Craig Venter Institute in the United States.

Published ahead of the October release date by the online journal last Sept. 4, the map of Venter's genetic sequence—downloaded quite an time for detail, due to size constraints), the individual base pairs (ATGC) shown. Still, if it were assigned, given its size and personal, it would be an eye-catching piece and a way to impress guests without letting on much.

Name sounds familiar

If Venter's name sounds familiar, it's because he's the man who challenged the international research consortium working on the Human Genome Project to a race, in the time the HGP had been pointing out the genetic genome in a way that was not known people. Their plan was to then combine all the sequences to represent a human being. Despite their daunting head start, the Venter-Funded Celera Genomics used a different approach and provided over the process, encouraging them few people to develop their own map.

In February 2001, when the journals finished and Nature published drafts of the human genome respectively mapped by the privately owned Celera and the publicly funded Human Genome Project, Celera's founder Venter declared victory. The final draft was completed two years later and is now available to researchers everywhere online.

Study genetic bases

The information has given scientists a better way to study the genetic bases of several diseases, but its very generality also has limitations. The presumed genetic sequences that make these representative humans genomes can't decode the genetic diversity between various peoples.

Marie Armour, for example, carried white drinking alcohol, but Caucasians do not. Also consider that the ability to drink cow's milk and tolerate lactose, it turns out, isn't due to just one gene, but a variety based on whether one's ancestors came from Europe, Africa or Asia. In short, less expressive native genomes aren't very helpful when it comes to genetics.

Venter and partner Samuel Levy said his team aims in their paper, sequencing Venter's genome has lent credence to the notion that human beings are only 99.5 percent identical to each other. The representative human genomes completed late years suggested the figure was closer to 99.9 percent. One way to settle this would be to compare the genomes of different people.

Personal genomes

Conveniently, right now, two full personal genomes are known to exist. James Watson, half of the team that discovered the DNA helix, received two DVDs with his personal genomic sequence last May. He's promised to make it publicly available too. If more personal genomes become available for scientific comparison, the data can only help further refine the genetic variance studied.

Since the publication of the representative human genomes, projects like the International HapMap Project have focused on identifying regional genetic differences and similarities. The publication of Venter's genome, however, presents a different direction. Why stick with generalities, the paper seems to ask, when you can be as specific as you want?

The cost of having one's very own genome completely sequenced, unfortunately, is still prohibitively high. When it becomes affordable, one reason to get a personal genome—and one that's never been hurried from hair's pattern). Unfortunately, it can't tell you who gave you which version of each gene, unless both of your parents have their own genomes sequenced as well. Maybe then, cinemagoers like "We got that from you?" can finally be verified and such arguments settled once and for all.

* * *

E-mail the author at mazon@mazon.com.

RP could prevent more child deaths, if…

By Tess R. Salazar

WE ADULTS SHOULD BE GETTING OUR acts together if we intend to keep our children alive.

This is the urgent message of a Filipino pediatrician and member of the World Health Organization.

Every year, over two births in the Philippines, 36 children will not make it to their fifth birthday—a far cry from that of Hong Kong and Singapore where only three in four will die before age five.

Furthermore, those in Hong Kong and Singapore die mostly from metabolic or genetic disorders, while most Filipino children die from infectious diseases, pneumonia, diarrhea, malnutrition, meningitis and poor health-seeking behaviors by parents and guardians.

Teamwork needed

Dr. Lulu C. Bravo, a member of the technical steering committee of the World Health Organization's child and adolescent health department, said child survival in the country "is a challenge we can only win if we have the participation of the World Health Organization-United's combined strategies.

Bravo, vice chancellor for research and extension at the UP National Institutes of Health, said that the framework means the combined forces of the country's pediatricians, obstetricians, international and local nongovernment organizations and the Department of Health.

"But we are putting together all the NGOs that will probably be able to come up with a big, per impact on child survival. These are all interventions. The public private mix is now an ongoing principle in providing the health delivery that we need, because definitely the government cannot do it all. There are limited government resources," said Bravo during a Sept. 11 Philippine College of Physicians Faculty Foundation health forum.

Recommendations

Bravo, a professor of pediatrics at UP Manila, cited studies that World Bank and United Nations Children's Emergency Fund's combined recommendations of child survival strategies, quite called "interventions needed to achieve the fourth millennium development goal.

• The chief of deaths in children below 5 die during the first few hours and days of life. Skilled birth attendants should be given the opportunity to provide prenatal and postnatal care to mothers. Give them well-trained attendants the necessary management or referral during complicated deliveries.

• Adequate newborn care should include clean and aseptic cord care, good prophylaxis, immunization at birth, and provision of warm and proper temperature.

• Breastfeeding should be started in the first hour of life and exclusively practiced the first 6 months and continued until 2 years of age. This will prevent malnutrition and diarrhea.

• Micronutrient supplementation is the giving of essential vitamins and minerals, specifically iron, vitamin A and zinc, which have been found to increase child survival by helping prevent anemia.

• The seven vaccines against tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, polio and hepatitis B are essential, but new vaccines can be included to increase coverage for pneumococcus meningitis and pneumococcus and diarrhea.

• Proper management of pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria and other infectious diseases should be sought not only in physicians, but in midwives, volunteer health workers and even mothers to increase early recognition and treatment of these diseases, thereby preventing deaths from these killer diseases.

• Prevention of accidents and childhood injuries has to be disseminated because most children are also dying from drowning, poisoning and other accidents, which can be upon highly preventable. Public information is much needed here.

Other interventions

Bravo added that other interventions such as deworming, provision of clean water supply provision of insecticide-treated mosquito nets in malaria hotspots and proper birth spacing are also worth giving a try. Since they have already succeeded in implementing the essential recommendations, could now begin to consider expanding and providing wider health coverage through other intervention measures.

"What is definitely needed is the political will and the mobilization of everyone to save our children from dying from so many preventable causes," she said.

Alliance Global allots ₱17B for '08 expansion

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuna

ALLIANCE GLOBAL GROUP INC., the holding firm of tuipan Andrew Tan, is setting aside ₱17 billion in 2008 to grow its fast food, property and beauty businesses.

AGI president Kingson Sian said that of the total, roughly ₱12 billion would be spent for Megaworld Corp. whose Alliance Global owns 56 percent.

Another ₱5 billion will be spent for Golden Arches Development Corp. (GADC), the master franchise holder of McDonald's in the country, as it puts up 50 stores on the average every year over the next five years. These may be a combination of company-owned and franchised stores.

Alliance Global owns 49 percent of Fribbit Anchor.

The balance of ₱4 billion will be for Emperador Distillers Inc. partly for its plan to manufacture flavored alcoholic beverages.

"Overall, we are very much on track with the continued expansion of the food economy," Sian said.

Alliance Global is spending the same capital expenditure of ₱17 bil. for this year.

The company also disclosed yesterday that it was targeting remittance inflows of ₱25 billion this year, or 184 percent higher than the ₱8.8 billion in 2006, largely to be driven by the property and beauty businesses recently absorbed by Alliance Global.

Alliance Global increased its consolidated investment in the first half by 354 percent to ₱31.2.4 billion from a year ago. Net income surged to ₱1.33 billion in the same period, up 440 percent from last year.

Company chair Andrew Tan said that as of June 30, the company had a cash hoard of ₱11.9 billion, which would be invested in all its core businesses to ensure sustained growth.

Bulk to go to Megaworld expansion

iRemit IPO gets SEC approval

THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Commission, (SEC) has approved the plan by iRemit Inc. (iremit), the country's biggest Filipino-owned remittance company, to raise up to ₱812.3 million from a maiden debut in the stock market.

iRemit is offering 140.6 million shares, consisting of 107.42 million new shares and up to 33.19 million secondary shares or those held by existing shareholders, documents with the SEC showed.

Selling shareholders are JTEC Equities Inc., Multi-Asia Equities Inc. and JPHA Global Services Co.

The offer price is between ₱4 and ₱5.77 a share.

The offer shares will represent 25 percent of the total issued and outstanding capital stock of the company.

The net proceeds from the primary offer, which are estimated to hit between ₱390.4 million and ₱575.3 million, will be used to partly finance the company's expansion abroad, cover working capital requirements and partially retire some short-term debts.

The company is looking at Australia, Hong Kong, Austria, the United States, Macau, New Zealand and Italy starting this year until 2012. The company is targeting to spend between ₱150.3 million and ₱237.2 million for its expansion.

iRemit plans to list its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on Oct. 23, with the offer period tentatively scheduled from Oct. 1 to 8.

"We are all set and looking forward to our upcoming listing this October," said iremit chair Ramon Chua in a separate statement. "We are hopeful that we can get the approval from the PSE soon as well."

Established in 2001, iRemit has rapidly grown to become the biggest Filipino-owned, independent remittance company in the country. It operates in 23 countries across North America, Europe, Australia, Asia, the Pacific Isles, and the Middle East, with 270 outlets, more than 2,000 payout stations throughout the Philippines.

In a span of six years, iRemit had a compounded average annual growth rate of 53 percent in terms of revenues. It is also projecting to achieve record growth this year.

For the first half of 2007, the company posted a consolidated net income of ₱43.5 million, exceeding its full-year consolidated net income of ₱42.5 million in 2006. Aside from iRemit, the company had total assets of ₱1.16 billion.

iRemit is also a collection partner of the Social Security System, Pag-IBIG and PhilHealth to accept payments from overseas Filipino workers. It is also the biggest bailout issuer of Visa Debit Card in the Philippines.

First Metro Investment Corp. has been named financial advisor and underwriter for the initial public offering. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuna*

LAND ROVER'S newest premium 4x4 makes its Manila debut in the all-new Freelander 2. It was presented to the press at the Land Rover showroom in Makati by (L-R) Jason Soong, executive director; Wellington Soong, chair and president; and Marc Louis Soong, executive director of LRPhils Motors Inc., the official distributor of Land Rover vehicles in the Philippines.

Stocks close higher in cautious trading

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.16 PERcent higher yesterday as investors took little comfort from solid gains on Wall Street overnight while trading cautiously after crude oil prices hit fresh record highs, dealers said.

They said investors also refrained from buying aggressively ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting next week, choosing only a few stocks with attractive value from mid-record fundamentals.

The composite index added 5.31 points to 3,294.35 off the day's high of 3,300.34. Turnover was 3.4 billion shares valued at 94.2 billion.

There were 52 gainers and 36 losers, while 63 stocks were flat.

The all-share index rose 3.36 points to 1,986.74.

"Uncertainty over oil prices and US interest rates are keeping investors very cautious," said Amos Lapa of Westlink Global Equities.

Oil stocks rose strongly Thursday amid signs that the credit crunch may be easing following news that the nation's biggest mortgage lender, Countrywide Financial Corp., had secured $12 billion in additional financing.

But oil prices have hit record highs and will likely remain under pressure in the near term due to expected hurricanes in the United States and with the approaching winter season, investors have reasons not to commit to the market.

Oil prices eased to below $80 a barrel in Asian trading hours, from its record close of $80.09 in US trades Thursday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. rose P75 to P2,890.

Shares in Ayala Corp advanced 85 to P467.50, still supported by the conglomerate's share buyback program announced Monday.

Several winners fell as investors locked in gains, with shares in Metrobank, the nation's biggest lender by assets—down P2.50 at P55.50. AFP

Currencies

September 14, 2007 Friday	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.027469	1.000000	46.5000
Japan	Yen	3.202218	116.6000	5.4200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.360318	2.049861	94.7500
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.213940	7.790000	362.1000
Switzerland	Franc	1.140918	1.154000	53.6500
Canada	Dollar	0.026	0.946000	43.9700
Singapore	Dollar	0.670881	0.813000	37.7900
Australia	Dollar	0.023178	0.844000	39.2400
Bahrain	Dinar	1.021018	3.718000	172.8500
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.174210	0.634000	29.4800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000297	0.010800	0.5020
Thailand	Baht	0.001218	0.044300	2.0600
UAE	Dirham	0.170910	0.622300	28.9300
EU	Euro	1.360000	1.360000	63.2400
Kuwait	Dinar	0.094176	3.429000	159.4400
Norway	Krone	0.164878	0.600400	27.9100
India	Rupee	0.013789	0.502100	23.3500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.008178	0.297800	13.8400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.019081	0.694800	32.3100
Sweden	Krona	0.187787	0.683800	31.7900
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.001776	0.064700	3.0000

Source: Bankers Trust Philippines as of PHT time, 4pm. In PHP
Forex Trade Rates as Reported to Bangko Sentral, Manila

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

BUSINESS

Northrail project gets back on track; new head appointed

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTation and Communications (DOTC) yesterday said that the north rail-commuter project is set to get back on track with a new officer appointed to replace the late Transport Undersecretary Jose Cortes Jr. as chair of the Northrail Corp.

DOTC said Malacañang has appointed former Rates Convention and Development Authority chairperson Arsenio M. Santisteban III as president, CEO and chair of Northrail.

Santisteban said that unless the rail project is finished, it will link Metro Manila with the rest of Luzon by extending the existing route of the Philippine National Railways, boosting trade and tourism.

Only last July, Cortes, the late head of the Northrail Corp., briefed President Macapagal-Arroyo on plans to resume Call 1/Line 1 the construction of an 80.2 kilometer railway between Manila and Bulacan in January 2008.

On Aug. 4, Cortes succumbed to a heart attack.

With a new head onboard, the DOTC said it would keep to its timetable, which means construction is still set from February 2007 to February 2010 for Section 1. Section 2 is scheduled for completion a year later.

The 80.2 kilometer railway line will extend from the old Tutuban (Philippine National Railways [PNR]) station in Manila to Malolos in Bulacan.

The $1.126-billion Northrail project's first section spans Caloocan City, Valenzuela City and five towns of Bulacan, including Meycauayan, Marilao, Bocaue, Guiguinto and Malolos.

Bid opens for PNOC-EDC stake

PNOC's remaining 60% stake in energy unit will be up for grabs

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. has opened the bidding for its remaining 60 percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

In an invitation to bid published today, the state firm said that at stake were 6 billion common and 7.3 billion preferred shares representing 16.67 percent and 33.33 percent, respectively, of PNOC-EDC's outstanding capital stock.

Interested entities should submit their letters of interest (LOIs) by noon of Sept. 24. Only those that would submit LOIs by the deadline would be allowed to participate further in the bidding process.

Upon submission of the LOIs, the PNOC privatization committee (Privatcom) will furnish potential bidders with the initial pre-qualification guidelines, as well as the lists for the confidentiality agreement and undertaking.

Prospective bidders may secure the bidding rules and procedures starting Sept. 25.

A pre-bid conference has been scheduled for Sept. 28, with the deadline for the submission of the initial pre-qualification requirements, including the confidentiality agreement and undertaking, set for Oct. 5.

The PNOC Privatcom will release the list of pre-qualified bidders on Oct. 10.

Pre-qualified bidders will be required to pay a non-refundable fee of $5,000 on Oct. 11-12 for them to avail themselves of the draft transaction documents, the information package and the due diligence procedures.

Only those who will pre-qualify may conduct due diligence and/or on shares to be sold. This will start no later than Oct. 15.

The pre-qualified bidders will then be required to submit final qualification documents by 5 p.m. of Oct. 26, with those who are able to pass the final screening on be given until 9 a.m. of Nov. 23 to turn in their bids.

In preparation for its privatization, PNOC-EDC has tapped Quirp Cortez Abiqui and Co. as to new external auditor, replacing the Commission on Audit.

PNOC-EDC company information officer Emelina Recio said the contract with SGV will last three years, starting on the calendar year ending Dec. 31, subject to yearly performance evaluation and engagement renewal.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake would fetch as much as P5b billion for the government.

The Development Bank of the Philippines will serve as financial adviser for the sale.

DOE expects P12B in ethanol investments

IN PREPARATION FOR THE MANDATED use of gasoline with a 5-percent ethanol blend next year, the Department of Energy expects some P12 billion to be invested to ethanol plants.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the DOE had granted six companies endorsements for Board of Investments registration under the Investments Priorities Plan.

"We are looking at P12 billion in investments to generate a combined annual production capacity of around 300 million liters, to support the projected demand of 222 million liters in 2009," he said yesterday in a statement.

He said the DOE had received good response from investors wanting to delve into ethanol production.

The facilities of San Carlos Bioenergy Inc., one of the companies with a DOE endorsement, in Negros Occidental is now under construction and will be operational in the fourth quarter of 2008.

The other companies with DOE endorsements include JG Summit Holdings Inc., Bioketa 88 Corp., Leyte Agri Corp. and South Hacienda Bioenergy Inc.

Reyes revealed that eight more companies had expressed "serious commitment" to enter the ethanol business and had, in turn, received DOE endorsements for registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Three companies are First Pampanga Biofuels Corp., Emperador Distillery Inc., Absolute Distillery Inc., Roxol Bioenergy Corp., Tanduay Distillers Inc., Alcogreen Inc., Negros Green Resources, Pampanga Industrial Park, Hope Manufacturing and Trading Corp., Eastern Visayas Bio-Fuels Corp. and Bioenergy Holdings Inc.

Letters of interest continued to pour in, Reyes said, including some from Negros Southern Integrated Biofuels Corp., JC Yuchu, Bandang Valley Ethanol, BM 88 Integrated Biofuels, Negros Biochem Corp., Pearl One and Ginebra San Miguel Inc.

Possible investments of more than P20 billion from these companies, he said, could translate to 621.6 million liters of ethanol a year.

Even before the implementation of the mandated blend, he said 144 service stations all over the country were already selling gasoline with a 10-percent ethanol blend.

Abigail L. Ho

Edna Cesar D. Manganaang
PROPERTY

Build-and-sell worthwhile risk, former OFW says

By Tess R. Sioson

'If you don't take a loan, you won't grow. But it is important to manage your finances'

THE FLORESES' construction project in Canyon Woods, Tagaytay

REYNALDO FLORES, 46, and Zenaida Fajardo-Flores, 45, never thought they would someday build and sell properties for other people.

Reynaldo was a project engineer and estimator of buildings in Saudi Arabia from 1986 to 1987, and from 1991 to 1993, while wife Zenaida, who has a fine arts background, borrowed money from her parents to put up a small grocery store and refreshment destinations.

In 1986, Zenaida was able to build a duplex from the 140-sq-m lot she bought at North Susana in Commonwealth, Quezon City. She offered half of the duplex for rent, and its earnings helped her pay the P300,000 housing loan from the Social Security System.

Through loans

By the time RG Flores Construction started building and selling property and homes in 1993, Zenaida had sold the duplex, upgraded once more to a bank loan—the bank, as well as loan from her sister, and then bought a 240-sq-m lot also at North Susana worth P1.4 million.

The husband and wife team cut the 240 lots into two. They built a 2-story residential house at the 106-sq-m lot, which was quickly sold for P3.8 million. The remaining 140-sq-m lot, which already had a house and lot concept, was sold for P3.6 million (the ready-plus was sold already with the lot).

The Floreses again used the money to buy the lot beside the old one. This lot was quickly sold in a TV commercial. After that sale, the Floreses bought another lot in North Susana and built a house over it. A show biz celebrity bought this house and lot for P6.8 million.

Referrals

Developers started noticing the Flores couple's designs and asked for their help in construction. One of the Floreses' buyers referred the couple to Monterey meat shops, where eventually 82 Flores Construction houses in builders. Zenaida told buyers in Property Guru phone interview that currently RG Flores Construction builds the Metropolis chain of fast-food outlets.

Zenaida credits the couple's shared work as the three bundle of joy—a son and two daughters. Their courses are medical technology, architecture and the youngest in high school.

The Floreses expanded business to buying and selling seven units of townhouses in Cebu, three units in Iconic Peninsula (167 sq m), a duplex in Scout Ozaraos (200 sq m) and five units in Project 6 (105 sq m). The company is also working on the layout of another project in San Antonio Heights in Quezon City.

Zenaida said that although the build-and-sell business pays off well, many loans have to be paid, too.

Buying viable land

With property and houses in North Susana, Cebus, and Quezon City among others, the Floreses have seen and strength-ened their business in building and selling. A crucial aspect of their success is their principle of immediately buying viable land, including those foreclosed by banks.

The Floreses recently took out a mortgage loan from GE Money Bank to buy the Don Antonio Heights.

"If you don't take a loan, you won't grow. But it is important to manage your finances," she said.

The 6.75 percent fixed annual interest rate and a loan of P13.5 million (with a five GE ref worth P10,000) sealed the Floreses' decision to choose GE Money Bank. Zenaida said it took just five working days to obtain the loan.

ON THEIR construction biz, Reynaldo and Zenaida evade turnkeys, luck, and the right amount of gut feel.

Brittany unveils 2 new luxury homes at Portofino

MAURICE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER Brittany Corp. has unveiled two new luxury model homes for its charmingly masterplanned Portofino development.

Brittany is a joint venture of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., the country's largest home builder, expects these additions to significantly enhance the appeal of this Italian-inspired community.

Befitting a true master

Massimo opulence best describes the recently unveiled model home of The Masters Collection. Aptly called Van Gogh, it is a true reflection of the lifestyle of a homeowner who appreciates the finer that life has to offer.

It features a spacious living room area to entertain guests, and a conservatory connecting the living and dining areas to the side courtyard—a perfect uplifting area for cocktails and parties. The second level has its own family area for more intimate interactions while a balcony at the side provides a space for more romantic moments.

The Master's Collection

The Masters Collection is the name of Brittany's homes of distinction, redefined what it means to live large. Rather than creating a separate enclave, these homes are intended to be integrated within the entire Portofino development. The collection includes six model homes with floor areas ranging from 330 to 625 sq m. Lot sizes reach to as much as 1,000 sqm. We as long as the client has a lot within the Portofino development that meets the required lot target, he can choose a home that is part of the Masters Collection.

THE STONE-CLAD façade and curved embellishments give the dwelling a rustic yet modern feel.

Just like the rest of the Portofino development, the Masters Collection still carries the Italian theme, though on a grander scale. In these homes, much-loved features such as courtyards, cupolas, and balconies are magnified.

Aside from the size and scale, it is the use of space that sets into the Masters Collection apart. Three of the model homes have an atrium on the second floor. The other three, however, have a covered patio which can be converted into another guest bedroom or even a private study.

HOME with cave inside Van Gogh's bright and airy living room.

Completing Ansore

Recently unveiled is Ansore—the latest model home of houses at Portofino. From the outside, a double-door entrance immediately greets the guests, inviting them in a grander access into the cozy home. It features an open floor plan for living and dining areas that allow guests and family to move freely around their shared spaces. It also has a spacious bedroom at the ground level that can be converted into a master bedroom should one claiming the room to be a less functional option for the older members of the household.

The launch of the Ansore is another milestone for Brittany as it completes the full cluster of Ansore homes. A Brittany lay-out innovation, Ansore of Portofino is an 11-hectare modern unique for its cluster—an assemblage of four single-detached residential units with a common paved driveway and a landscaped pocket garden. The clusters offer further exclusivity in an enclave that is already extensively secure. The other Ansore model homes are Davids, Ansoni and Ansore.

Drawing inspiration from rustic Tuscany, Ansore further distinguishes itself from other Portofino enclaves through various architectural details. The cupola, among others, is unique because it is separate, while the cupolas in other Portofino developments like the Courtyards are circular.

Brittany is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative lifescapes for affluent and vibrant portfolio includes Brittany Bay, CrossWinds, Portofino, The Islands, Islands at Greenbelt, and more at The Fort. With master-planned developments steeped in character, stylish and thematic appeal, rich architectural details and resolute craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the hotel real estate landscape.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 831.2666 or 830.3081, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

Edsa Central Greenfield District riding high with new business wave

IN LINE WITH THE PHILIPPINES' overwhelming position as a major player in the global Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) market, Greenfield Development Corp.'s Edsa Central rises as the location of choice for business and organizations looking to set up or expand their operations in the country. With several organizations building office spaces here, Edsa Central has become Luzon's white collar district, the new favorably saturated business districts of Ortigas and Makati.

One of the companies that have chosen Edsa Central as its base was ORIX Metro Leasing and Finance Corp. (ORIX) which provides diversified back-office solutions to its parent company PC Mall. A publicly listed US company PC Mall is a wholesale provider that markets various IT products and services to individuals, small companies, medium-size and top US corporations, or anyone with an interest in putting up a business and would to be technology-enabled.

First BPO tenant

ORIX was Edsa Central's first BPO tenant, setting up offices two years ago with only 30 employees. Currently, the department, however, ORIX has more than 400 employees in 10 departments, all of which provide critical back-office support to PC Mall's businesses in the United States and Canada.

"We are not hiring for just two positions like call centers; we are hiring for 12 different departments," shared Jean Lefebvre, general manager of ORIX. "ORIX has representation of every single department in the United States and Canada offices; all our functions, like marketing, customer development, IT and accounting, are here. This is why we attract people from different areas. It means the positions unique to the Philippines get very exotic to the US market."

Expansion plans

Because of its fast growth, ORIX has had to expand its operations three times, and its management has been more than pleased with Greenfield Development Corp.'s support.

"The continuous improvement of Edsa Central Greenfield District was also beneficial to tenants like ORIX. One of the primary reasons we set up operations here is due to the assurance that Edsa Central will be a Pan Philippine Economic Zone Authority-accredited area," related Roger Lacuna, director for human resources of ORIX Greenfield Development has been steadily moving toward its goal of making Edsa Central a true cyber zone, a complete IT center where people and businesses converge.

As it houses retail, offices and other establishments, as well as residences, Edsa Central Greenfield District has become an ideal place to work or do business. Employees of locator companies have within easy reach a variety of dining, shopping and recreation destinations. And because of its prime location in the middle of the metropolis, Edsa Central Greenfield District provides easy accessibility with the number of transportation options available to workers.

TODAY, ORIX based in Edsa Central Greenfield District has more than 400 employees in 12 departments.

Portello a themed enclave in Batangas

BATANGAS HAS EARNED FAME FOR THE lure of its world-class dive sites and beaches which continue to attract both foreign and local tourists. A strong economy and continuous industrialization makes it one of the fastest progressing areas in the south. These advancements are also complemented by the close proximity of Batangas from the southern part of the metropolis. Communities Philippines brought its real estate expertise to this Tuscan, Batangas-laid created to ideal site in which to raise families in its exclusive residential development, Portello.

A proud subsidiary of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., Communities Philippines is the expert in converting the countryside into a landscape of sought-after residences and is the first Manila-based developer to expand operations into key cities and municipalities across the country. Vista Land is the Philippines' largest homebuilder offering the broadest spectrum of homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the entire country.

The 58-hectare, Italian-inspired residential estate of Portello is located in Barangay San Vicente in Sto. Tomas which is close to other booming Batangas towns like Calamba, San Pablo, Tanauan and Lipa.

Wide selection

A wide selection of home and lot packages are available to complement various living requirements and finances: the Bungalow Series, for individuals and beginning families who wish to invest in a home all to their own; Townette Townhomes (Townsville, Cranberry, Citronella and Columbine with floor areas ranging from 33 to 72 sq m on a 88- to 136-sq-m lot; and full two-story residences for growing families, offers Lavender, Petunia, Amaranth, Crossandra, Allium, Cymbidium and Camellia with floor areas ranging from 66 to 208 sq m on a 136- to 225-sq-m lot. Price begins at P699,000. A new series added for beginning families are also available: Sun Lilac, Ilang-Ilang and Thyme with a floor area starting at 23 to 42 sq m on a 77- to 116-sq-m lot.

With its first phase almost sold out in less than a year, Portello is slated to open its second phase in the third quarter of 2007 to accommodate more families desiring a comfortable home in this exclusive enclave in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Portello's new access road going to Tanauan is currently in progress to establish Sto. Tomas as the next gateway in the south. The strategic location of Portello is just 30 minutes away from the commercial and business district of Alabang, 15 minutes from the Calamba exit to the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), seven minutes away from the Mcarthy Inland and Calamba Hospital, and three minutes away from Laiguel and Malvar-Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Junction. For inquiries on Communities Philippines' themed development in Batangas, call (632) 7738638 or 8917.8870/2899 or log on to www.vistaland.com.

WITHIN is your own Italian-themed, full-service luxury home at the exclusive enclave of Portello.

Antel Spa Residences built with functional esthetics

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNERS A PIVOTAL role in achieving an edifice that emphasizes both function and style. Years of harnessing a perfect connection methodology that supports both features lead to the marketing of new Age Design, which carries with it the corporate name Structure at Design.

Such concept is a unique construction technique that perfectly melds science and art—the same scheme that is set to inspire the architectural splendor of Antel Spa Residences, Makati Avenue's highly anticipated residential tower.

Maximizing spaces

As conceptualized by Edward Co Tan + Architects, itself Lund Holdings Inc. is set to integrate the structure to design concept in the 20-story skyscraper. The interactive theory will bestow ASR the modernity of new age designing with esthetically functional installations that will create maximum space saving features which will prevent unsightly, protruding members—like electro-mechanical components or plumbing networks—to either block or occupy a desired floor area.

Structure as design is a sensible and highly recommended concept that comfortably meets the standards of modern architecture, one that is superbly done and functional.

With its employment at the outset, unpleasant sightings such as protruding wire connections or beams crossing along the corner of a room are avoided. Thus, Antel Spa Residences, which is set to utilize this contemporary construction method, isn't only sensibly built, it is also perpetually pleasing to the eyes," said Edward Co Tan, tech chief master planner.

According to him, structure as design is best suited for ASR's wide range of suites (studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, two-bedroom bilevel and three-bedroom bilevel) to maximize room space or volume.

With its 197 condominium units, state-of-the-art amenities and galleries, future ASR tenants are delightfully add their own style and taste without worrying whether their chosen furniture pieces would not fit in. They are also privileged to mix up their styles with avant garde décors, thus creativity and freedom are well-supported by the state-of-the-art construction technique.

THE MODERN architecture of Antel Spa Residences merges both esthetics and functionality to offer the best of both worlds in the newest spa-inspired lifestyle tower.

ANTEL Spa Residences embodies the perfect 'structure as design' approach.

Functional features

Aside from boundless and columns-free floor layouts, structure as design will also allow the innovative installation of many contemporary add-ons to ASR's suites such as 2.6-meter ceiling height, wide windows for lighting and ventilation, sound proofed and fire-retarded walls, doors and ceilings, tempered modular kitchen cabinet systems, vinyl wood planks for bedrooms/living room, tempered bathroom fixtures, basic control wallets as well as automatic alarm and sprinkler systems.

Antel Spa Residences is a reflection of spirited lifestyle residential tenets that houses a plethora of invigorating wellness amenities and services such as massage and spa parlors, kitchen theme rooms, an executive briefing center for herbal medications and detoxification processes, a Wellness Academy that offers the latest trends in health such as proper dieting, Pilates, yoga and other calisthenics as well as a well-equipped gym for personalized fitness workouts.

Conveniently located facilities that support overall enhancements are also in store for ASR's future residents like a 25-meter lap pool and kiddie spa pools that are equipped with jet streams, bamboo canopies and cobblestone pathways, a sky infinity pool, a meditative nature trail, upscale lounge and medical clinics as well as an exclusive function hall that will also accommodate the innovative functionality of the structure as design concept and A Status Event Hall, which will house a variety of high-end dining bars, clubs, coffee shops, themed lounges and a 2,000-sq-m international standard events hall.

A marriage of function and design

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isobel Hemingway-Ainsworth

FOR MY CHILDREN, THE black-and-white television with all four pursuit childhood are a source of hilarity. And when I compare what we had then to what they now have, I can understand why.

The center of activity in my parents' family room was a mind-altering wooden cabinet with four legs and a pull-down, cross door. It had only three functions: further in a bedroom. Switch and a fabric cover for its lopsided speaker. The picture tube measure round have been all of 14 inches.

One day, my father came home with a new color television, set. It was the size of a fridge—one of those huge TVs into the wooden cabinet enclosure. It sat on an open cowboy hunting the name found inside. Through the knobs, our TV was revolved. But as technology progressed, they were primarily functional pieces. After many years of viewing, the first major marked improvement in their shape and size, we finally enjoy the first, sleek and polished LCDs, plasmas and HDTVs of this generation.

TV area hub of activities

If one thing has not changed, it is that the family room remains the center of the home and the TV area as the hub of its activities. Fortunately, TV units have come more esthetically gratifying in appearance. In the perspective technology does of the 50s, there was a strong trend to hide TV sets and related audio equipment into armoires or large built-in cabinets that could conceal the depth and massiveness of the units.

Rick Gist, space was also no more since a larger screen size meant a deeper TV unit and more area needed to accommodate it in a room. Nowadays, all TV units are practically flat (wall, just a few inches flush anyway), and manufacturers of audio/video equipment have jumped into the lifestyle bandwagon and have perfectly their components with current interior and audio-technology trends.

Well-designed systems

More than just being sleek, the current systems are so well designed, they are statements in themselves. Their parts and accessories come in colors and finishes that are subtle and neutral, much in keeping with what the home demand.

For instance, TV units that come with DVD players and a five-speaker system have brackets for rear speakers and podium/console for front speakers, all in coordinated details, colors and finishes. TV sets can be bought with matching TV stands designed exclusively to match the overall look of the integrated system that a client selects in itself. Equipment no longer need be be hidden. Freestanding equipment also functions to meet furniture for further upgrading with the quick advancements in technology.

A FLAT TV sits quietly against a stainless steel panel in the family room.

As technology becomes more seemingly complicated, one selects furniture become easier. Design-related issues are less of a problem, thanks to the new generation of flat TV technology. Nevertheless, it is highly likely that 20 years from now we cannot fathom still be speaking about flat TV units in relation to their parents were placed. And I want to see what their TV sets will be like then.

A preview to the most fashionable windows

"WINDOW FASHION" IS A TERM that Heather Douglas has coined and rightfully owned. For decades it has been a mantra for her to transform their windows from a functional requirement into an architectural, esthetic—a design and sensual piece.

And Heather Douglas showcases some of the most fashionable window designs in a fashion editorial with two of the most in-demand guests in the fashion industry—Frank Rodriguez and Patrick Ta.

Fashionable windows

"It's very high fashion," says fashion photographer Peter Stoddard of the shoot that took place in Bathurst. "It's not only meant for immediate purposes, but your pleasant the design of a room as well."

Heather's works have appeared in many glossy magazines and brand shows as well as numerous advertising materials.

Fashion editor Sheila Ta likewise lauds Heather Douglas entirely superior.

"Heather Douglas has successfully combined functionality with cutting-edge design. In fact, to produce even a perfect backdrop for fashion shoots," notes the stylist who is also behind some of the latest magazines that have appeared in billboards and print advertisements.

Designers' pick

And endless list of interior designers and decorators worldwide have proven their talents it comes not just to superb quality and functionality, but to design as well. Heather Douglas is the top choice.

An wide selection of window fashions—which include shutters, drapes, screens, shades, blinds and more—can be found in the world's best top establishments.

These include the offices of Hon Wilhelmina Cooper in the United States, the Empress International Resort Center in China, the Mount Meridien International in Germany, the Radisson SAS Hotel in Denmark, the Revlon International Headquarters Center in The Netherlands and the University of Calgary and the Bank Headquarters in Canada.

PATRICK Ta poses in a Heather Douglas creation for his wedding with Lorena [illegible] Chief of Staff [illegible] Ta's wife [illegible]

Moving in quick with Super Easy Home

CAN YOU IMAGINE OF PICKERING Nevada's newest brand home and have it ready in less than you think? This can be so as Robinsons Land Corp. sets completion of Woodsville Nevada Mansions ready by buyers who are moving in before the year ends. Buyers need not wait for two-three years when they can already bring to the beautiful setting of Pembroke Nevada.

What's more, Robinsons Land enables buyers to acquire their homes with easy financing terms, helping them get just the down payment for the

Woodsville Nevada Mansions is the newest planned gated community of mid- and high-end single-detached homes from Avida Nevada. It is beside Nevadaville, Pembroke, Nevada and Nichols area shoppers.

Well-crafted financing deal

In partnership with DFS Financial Savings Bank, Robinsons Land offers its Woodsville Nevada Mansions buyers Super Easy Home, a well-crafted financing deal. Under the scheme, for as low as P13,000 a month, buyers may move into their dream 2-bedroom townhouse unit. Or, for P15,000 a month, buyers may move into their dream 2-bedroom townhouse unit. Or, for P15,000 a month, buyers may move into their dream 2-bedroom townhouse unit. Or, for P15,000 a month, buyers may move into their dream 2-bedroom townhouse unit.

Within a three-fourteen development with 70 percent open space, the expansive development makes residents breathe and enjoy premium land-lush relaxation atmosphere. There is delight in Robinsons Land's offering of a village built and given well-conceived architecture and nature-surrounded amenities.

All these features make Robinsons Land's Woodsville Mansions the only ready property development of its kind in Pembroque.

7 residences

The property's seven land-scaped acres feature distinct amenities for special interests, such as sports, arts, theater, jogging and socials.

The Oasis hosts the clubhouse, multipurpose courts and swimming pools. The Promenade has walking spots for residents to get social activities and love. The Fun Park is for the parents and kids, and has playground and bicycle trails. The Fitness Core is perfect for active youth and adults with its Sport Center, featuring a badminton court set on various Fitness Plus.

The Artist's Nook is the place where imagination reigns for those who seek creating moments and leisure studio. The Retreat Cove, for its part, takes residents to a different place out of meditation and relaxation. The Nature's Orchestra, which hosts a mini amphitheater, provides space for impromptu expression during events and community socials.

For more information on Woodsville Nevada Mansions and Super Easy Home, call 638-09-88 or 8922-8308-88-88 or e-mail properties@yahoo.com.

Lakeshore donates P60M lot to Diocese of San Fernando

AS PROMISED, A CHURCH AT THE world-renowned Lakeshore estate in Metro, Pampanga will soon rise. Groundbreaking rites were held recently at The Lakeshore as part of its anniversary activities. Owners and developers Conrad Onasis Properties Corp. has donated around 5,862 square meters of land worth approximately P60 million to the Diocese of San Fernando.

The groundbreaking of the church was graced by Archbishop Paciano B. Aniceto, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Ambo David, Fr. Deogracias Iniguez, Bishop Emeritus Oscar M. Torres, Fr. Tomas Tayag and CCRI top officials. A concelebrated Thanksgiving Mass was held at the site before the ceremonial turning of the first shovelful of soil.

The groundbreaking of the church was graced by Archbishop Paciano B. Aniceto, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop Ambo David, Fr. Deogracias Iniguez, Bishop Emeritus Oscar M. Torres, Fr. Tomas Tayag and CCRI top officials. A concelebrated Thanksgiving Mass was held at the site before the ceremonial turning of the first shovelful of soil.

Church design, special features

The church was designed by ISI Mingga and Associates. Its floor area would be around 2,500 square meters and would be able to accommodate 1,000 persons, sitting down.

Special features of the church include a circular floor for children, a semi-circular special close loft and a baptismal room. Contemporary in design, the church will look like a dove with wings spread from the top view. The facade will be anchored by glass curtain wall with the Stations of the Cross in stained-glass motifs. Stained glass will adorn the facade's upper portion.

The funds for the church construction will be raised by the community in which Steven S. Mingga, CCRI president and CEO, has donated the personal lot to be used as a ground zero as a title intended to raise the needed funds to support the construction. CCRI believes that both parties, they say, is why they are involving the community in putting up the church.

ARCHITECT'S perspective of the church

A French Colonial house

TO MANY WHO WANT TO ESCAPE THE hustle and bustle of the city and live a life of total comfort in a distinguished French home, Versailles came to life. Such was one of the inspirations of Stolo Properties Corp. when the firm thought of developing Versailles, adopting the elegance and comfort of the famous French landmark.

One of the model houses that were erected in the 7.5-hectare Versailles project is called Amelie. This is only one of three model houses that Solano Associates designed for Versailles where the concept of French Colonial architecture was adopted, a type of structural design which dates back to the late 1870s.

Design inspiration

According to Solano Associates, they used the French Colonial architecture as their inspiration for the design but fused it with our own culture.

"Since the house is having spacious areas, enormous use of natural light and ventilation, and the use of appropriate materials that make the house a complete package that is practical yet very elegant," said architect Gabby Montano of Solano Associates.

Finest materials

It basically uses the finest materials such as stone veneer, timber, and homegrown tiles and laminated wood that make up the floor. The kitchen is provided with modular cabinet, granite countertop and stainless steel sink, while bathrooms are provided with ceramic wall tiles, and with fixtures such as polished type lavatory and concealed bath tubing fixtures.

"The common uses only high-quality materials in each and every detail of the house, but in spite of this, I can say that the house doesn't have a hefty price tag," at 30% affordable.

Montano continued that the development of Amelie took three a while but it had resulted in an indefinitely planned layout with a well-executed landscape.

Amelie is a very interesting rendition in the neo-classical theory of modern houses. Designed and improved for showroom quality, walls were further treated with textured stucco-like wallpaper on the ground floor, which lends an elegant touch to the interior. Rustic or solid-oak dining chairs, setting an entirely different environment that climates an extravagant yet casual, the lifestyle. Stainless crystal tiles with glass mosaic accent makes up the ground floor finish.

Door casings were embellished with carved resin borders to enhance the 2.40-meter height. Solano Associates' doors are richly stained in oak finish. Four bedrooms on second makes up the ground floor finish.

Dining room ceiling

One of the most interesting parts of the house is the dining room ceiling featuring a false "vaulted and beamed" ceiling treatment. Stained wood beams in plain finish taken from the false beams are in wood stain finish.

All pieces of furniture used were custom-made, high-back sofa, solid-oak, solid-wood and stone-combination coffee table, console table and side tables, wrought-iron beds and even mirror mirrors were carefully designed and manufactured to bring out the eclectic character of the unit—not to mention that special lighting fixtures that add a romantic appeal.

Simply works creates an aura of elegance. The meticulous of every detail of this house is an impressive showcase of one's taste of luxurious sophistication.

For a special schedule for this unit, please call 243-1321 to 30 or e-mail at mingga@yahoo.com.

AMELIE model house

THE SMART CHOICE IN LAMINATE & POLYCARBONATE

SONNENBLOCK

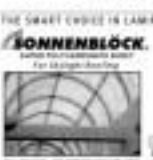
POLIART

e-laminati

ABC

SUCASA

MULTI-GLOBAL MARKETING



PROPERTY

Edric Cesar D. Mangawang

Creating storage spaces

A PERENNIAL PROBLEM FOR EVERY homeowner is storage. As years go by, our personal stuff accumulates. We hate to discard some things due to sentimental reasons. We are so attached to other things even though a lot of times we do not really need them.

Enacting full well that one man's garbage is another man's treasure, we have a couple of practical options. One solution is to sort out the things we no longer use and give them away. Banners will bless you for your generosity, perhaps with a wonderful feeling of contentment. Another option is to hold a garage sale and earn a few bucks for your junk. However, I can say from experience that this may not be a completely fulfilling endeavor. You could feel slighted that the things you own are appraised much lower than you expected. Just look at it this way: those old items are like barnacles at the bottom of the boat: the more you have, the slower you go.

After that's done, I'm pretty sure you will still have a lot of things left at home to store. Then, for those who just can't part with their possessions or for those with many interesting activities that require so much stuff, creating storage spaces must be practiced like so-so.

Storage is one of the most important factors to consider even when planning a house and condominium unit is completed. The size of the storage areas are based on need, but more important is the type of storage area required.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marrvin de Guzman Jr.

When building or renovating, these requirements must be factored in at once and not treated as an afterthought.

Configuration

Configuration is very important. Avoid making storage rooms long and narrow; stuff at the back is likely to be forgotten. Choose to have 20- to 45-cm-wide shelving on as many available walls as possible, with a walking space of around 90 centimeters. Having shelves of varied shoe sizes is preferable to just having standard dimensions. Adjustable shelves are even better. There are a lot of very clever closet organizers available in the market, but these can also be customized by a skilled carpenter.

The type, position and swing of the door are vital too. Doors must be wide enough to enable carrying in bulky items. Doors that swing out and allow for more space inside the room. Doors positioned too close to a wall hinge dwell space on that wall.

Proper lighting and ventilation is another important factor. The room must be adequately lit and may be provided with an automatic half switch, which enables the light to turn on automatically when you open the door and shut off automatically when you close it. Fortunately, this even costs less than a regular switch. More often than not, these rooms are located where there is no opportunity to put windows, so an exhaust fan is important, the control switch for which may be connected with the lights.

Several small storage areas

It is better to have several small storage areas instead of having just one big one. The main reason for this is accessibility. A linen closet, for example, should be found near the bedroom or bathroom for easy access to beddings and towels. Comforters and pillows usually take up a lot of space but there are several gadgets available for compressing them to a fraction of their size.

Garden tools must obviously be with in reach from outside the house, perhaps in an outdoor closet or shelves. This is where you put tools, hoses, fertilizers and insecticides. It should not be the same place to put your pets' supplies, or they might get contaminated.

Covered garage storage is also important. This is where you can stock on spare parts, cleaning agents, and lubricants. Here, you can likewise store things needed for home maintenance like spare light bulbs and water based paints. For those who do, you store flammable items? Woodwork?

Inside the house, you can install diverse or racks for shoes, clothes, gifts, toys, rain gear and umbrellas, suitcases and bulky coats, clothes, etc. The trick is to organize these first, then store like things together. Small spaces may be found in the staircases, above big appliances (like washing machines), under furniture (like beds), along hallways, in attics, among others. Hobby classes for spaces/equipment may be a necessity for you. Motorcycle apparel, dive equipment, cycling or golf paraphernalia occupy considerable space and must be planned carefully. Storage space for books must be easily accessible and well lit.

Christmas or Halloween decor may be placed in areas that are not easily accessible, but should be free from moisture, such as an attic or the crawl space above the ceiling.

The pantry should be able to accommodate at least a week's supply of food, stuff, wine and water jugs, among others. If you require a lot more space and should be situated close to the kitchen. When planning for storage, do not forget to allocate space for garbage, empty bottles and other recyclables. The more often you can clear the latest space, the better.

The aims of creating storage space is a easy, edged blade. There is an art to finding sufficient storage space and a skill in keeping it clutter-free.

Get world-class neighbors at McKinley Hill

GLOBALIZATION HAS DAWNED UPON US the past decade. Everything—from schooling to the design of products and the provision of services—aspires to be world-class. It's no wonder, then, that there is one neighborhood that aspires to be not only world-class in terms of architecture, but has also collaborated with institutions to make it a small global village in itself. An ambitious project like this can only come from property giant Megaworld Corp.

That neighborhood is no other than the picturesque 50-hectare McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio. McKinley Hill Village, dubbed "The most beautiful village in Metro Manila," features distinctly opulent Mediterranean homes that bear distinctive Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and Floridian influences. With the city's rolling hills, verdant landscape, magnificent views of Laguna Lake and fresh breezes, this is as close as we'll get to living in a setting similar to the Mediterranean's charms.

In another lofty section of this new town, the will rise a village that was inspired by Italy's most beautiful region. Aptly named McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate, it features seven clusters of exotic residential structures with contemporary Tuscan designs.

THE NEW Bridgeway will rise at the McKinley Hill area now being cle

Dominion buildings with varying heights. The best details of Italy will be replicated for the enjoyment of residents: pizzerias at the ground floor commercial section, an exclusive winery at the main clubhouse, and even villas on top of a bridge—just like in the Italian city of Florence.

5 institutions

From your private windows at McKinley Hill Tuscany Private Estate, you will get to appreciate the global character of this new township. Classes are now open at the new Chinese International School Manila. Meanwhile, local and culture learning institution Endeavor College will open its campus this November, whereas the Korean International School is set to open in the next few years. As well, the new British Embassy is now under construction, while the Korean Embassy is now deep into the planning stages of its new facility.

"These five institutions confirmed definitely make McKinley Hill one of the most prestigious new addresses in Metro Manila. They bring an added sense of security and pride among our future residents," Megaworld EVP Kevin Hernandez remarked.

As a modern township, McKinley Hill also boasts of emerging business and commercial districts. The 14-hectare McKinley Hill Cityscape will host third generation business process outsourcing (BPO) office buildings. In fact, international caliber BPO firms will further drive the service sector's growth as they fulfill the business needs of their large global clients.

New mall

Just a few steps from the cyberpark will rise the Venezia, a new mall which recreates the historic architecture and canals of Venice in the country. "This new mall, which is also now under construction, will provide a new shopping and leisure experience for our residents. Of course, it promises a romantic gondola ride along The Grand Canal," Hernandez promised.

With all these projects in place, residents will get to taste the benefits of the Live-Work-Play-Learn credo of McKinley Hill, according to Hernandez. "As a self-sustaining community, our privileged residents don't really have to go out of the community to enjoy the finer things in life. Everything they need is a few minutes' walk or ride away. That's one of the benefits of living in a world-class village like McKinley Hill," he noted.

If you foresee yourself and your family living in a world-class township, better check out McKinley Hill soon. People call 815-1888 or check out www.megaworldcorp.com for more details.

CLASSES have started this fall at the Chinese International School Manila.

super

BRAVE NEW WORLD ORDER

FLY WITH SUPER

WANT YOUR MAKEUP FLAWLESS AND SHINE-FREE? JUST ADD WATER!

CLEAR SMOOTH
AQUA GEL FOUNDATION

COVERAGE THAT'S FLAWLESS YET SHINE FREE

MAYBELLINE NEW YORK

MAYBE SHE'S BORN WITH IT. MAYBE IT'S MAYBELLINE.

NEW CLEAR SMOOTH
ULTRA-FINE SHINE FREE FACE POWDER

The Powder Revolution!

LEGENDaryart Karla

GRIFFIN DOOR HOUSE. Amanda Griffin

Fly with Super to Boracay!

WHEN WE SAY FLY WITH SUPER, WE mean that we'll take you on a weekly vacation. All you have to do is send your cute Mad Scout School out paper CA and CG to super@inquirer.com.ph along with your name, age, school/office and contact info. The owners of our favorite scan will win a three-night, four-day stay for two at The Sun, Uptage Central, a beautiful resort located between Stations 1 and 2, near D Mall, at the far two via boat, the author behind the comfortable All-inclusive flights to have said welcome drinks.

ATHA z. Ramayon

PEEPS

It's a wrap!

Photos by Andy Pelecha

Shoot Notes: *Rogue magazine's September issue Wrap Party*
Crime Scene: *Room, Greenbelt 2*
Release Date: *Sept. 9, 2007*

ART OF THE MATTER. Miguel Mari

GATEKEEPERS. Aoife Aslanian and Tricia Baird

SURF'S UP! Alex Tolentino and Noelle Hilario

ROCK AND ROGUE. Karl Roy

SUPERMODEL DIVA FOREVER. Angeli Villanueva

Roundabout and Out

By Katrina A. Holguera

LOGISTICS HAS never been a strong point for me. Getting lost in my own backyard or anyone's backyard combined with a rather short term memory for names of places and streets is something I've learned to live with. Suffice to say finding my way from A to B is always an adventure. This week I find myself with a couple of friends on a road trip around Italy, this month (and to) an absolute joyride, with the exception of me having to take my shift in driving. I can and do drive back in Manila although I can't say I'm the most patient and confidential person on the road. I feel constantly challenged by having to avoid all forms of public transportation, private transportation and not to mention public and private citizens who feel they are the only ones who have a right to be there. Driving abroad though is run necessarily any easier. The rules (although in general depicted in international symbols) easy and it doesn't help when you're trying to find parking and can't understand what the signs mean. Read: parking directly in front of a time away or EU 500 fine point.

A couple of days ago I found myself making my way through the narrow streets of a typical Italian town which wasn't built for anything wider than a horse. The feeling of actually maneuvering my way (both successfully and unfortunately also unsuccessfully) through eyes of a needle looking arches and maniacally parked cars raised my heartbeat a couple of times. One on the wide open road the heartbeat raising aspect was in the form of roundabouts, for a wonder rehab, if not entered into with confidence can cause a whole host of inventions. Think about it, you enter literally into a circular speedway of chaos. Now if you are not alert enough, you forget that someone else (or many someone elses) is heeding down on you from your left which could end up in disaster if you are not sure of where to go and doubt yourself for a second, you miss the proper exit, and have to go around again with your tail between your legs as other cars, who know where they're going zip by you without any hesitation.

But roundabouts are also a confidence builder, because at some point, you have to take charge and after taking a deep, deep breath choose your way out of there. It's akin to the very moment (enter personal epiphany) that you get behind the wheel of your own life and decide that you do want to reach point A—or realize what point A actually is. Then, with that determination (taking into consideration that you will get a little sidetracked,) you go for it, just don't be afraid to slow down every now and then to get your bearings. When driving it helps to be in a car with a GPS and a bunch of people who are understanding enough to know that even someone like Michael Schumacher hit a few speed bumps in his own career. In life expect to get pulled over a couple of times, remember to get insured up regularly, and honor with absolute certainty that there is no end point to get to where you want to be on any roundabout you find yourself revolving. Go ahead and prepare your life's GPS to be able to cruise through some of the most scenic routes that will make it the ride of a lifetime.

The Powder Revolution!

Want naturally flawless, shine free skin?
CHECK OUT the
MAYBELLINE
CLEAR SMOOTH
beauty hub
The Clear Smooth Hub goes to:
Brought to you by:
seventeen
sun

Win these books!

SUPERBOOKS

FILM TRANSFERS

The Powder Revolution!
FEAR SMOOTH
MAYBELLINE

WHY READ THE BOOK first before it hits the big screen? To impress your movie date with your unabashed arrogance, of course! There is much ado about being literary savvy, especially when you get to declare unperturbed at the right moment "(yawn), the book's soooo much better." Then again, if you're thinking of tanning "Beowulf" before gawking at Angelina Jolie in the theaters, then we'll spare you the trouble and the endless diphthongs—just go to Wikipedia.

He's bringing scary back!

For the brave ones who like getting their regular horror fix, pick up the graphic novel series "30 Days of Night" by Steve Niles before it hits the movie screens this December. The story takes place in Barrow, Alaska, a small town where the sun sets for 30 days, conditions ideal for vampires to feed without being harmed by lethal sunlight.

There's even better news. The artist behind the successful horror series, Ben Templesmith, is coming to Manila! Ben's artistic style brought a whole new dimension to modern horror and vampire books in comics. Templesmith will be flying in from his hometown of Perth, Australia, to give a series of art workshops and book signings in schools and at Fully Booked this coming October.

NOW for the best news yet. Send your original vampire artwork to super@inquirer.com.ph with the subject "30 Days Vampire Art Contest" and the best one will win a free graphic novel of "30 Days of Night" from Fully Booked. The selected artwork will appear in the upcoming October issue of Super with proper credit of course!

Guilt: trippy

Ever did something so bad when you were a kid and spent the rest of your life trying to make up for it? Little Briony Tallis did, one hot summer day in 1935, irrevocably changing the lives of her eldest sister Cecilia and her lover Robbie Turner. Keira Knightley and Robbie is James McAvoy in the movie. Vanessa Redgrave plays the older Briony. Make sure you've got a box of Kleenex on hand in the last few pages for this tandem's climax by Ewan McEwan, which was shortlisted for the 2007 Booker Prize for fiction.

Are you guilty about something? Be brave enough to write us about it and win a free copy of "Atonement"! Send your confession to super@inquirer.com.ph with the subject heading, "My Atonement." The best confession gets published on these pages, and wins a free copy of "Atonement" from Fully Booked.

MIDSUMMER Keighley

SUNSILK great hair days
Sure gift in every pack!
SUNSILK
SHAKEY'S
BLIMS
FITNESS FIRST

CHERIE GIL
Actress, not a second rate, trying hard copycat

JED QUIAMBAO
Marketing officer by day, a mommy to a cute doggie by night

MARCO
DJ for Hallow 94.7 and fun seeker

FRANCIS GA
Architect slash g

No ID required

Russian geniuses Timur A
internet. Faceyourpockets.
week. Super asked all kind
around with them. The sca
something we wouldn't do.

BIBAY CORDERO
Special Ed teacher, S.P.I.T. actor

NOEL IZRAEL LACSON
Student nurse

THEA NAPA
Bipolar Acid Eating Interior Design student

The most important meal of the day just got more heart-friendly! Start the day right with the new Ensure Heart Healthy Breakfast Pack. The idea behind the Heart Healthy Breakfast duo is to help good take care of your heart because it combines one sachet of Ensure and one sachet of Quaker Oats natural soluble fiber. Ensure, an adult nutritional drink highly recommended by doctors, has low cholesterol and is rich with fiber and antioxidants. Quaker Oats, on the other hand, has 100% natural soluble fiber to help reduce blood cholesterol levels and lessens the risk of heart disease.

PAM PASTOR
Super editor, pimp, beer drinker, queen of blabbiness

GANG BADOY
Media practitioner

ARWIN AYUSA
Future actuary and partime juggler

ERIC BUYCO
Videographer

HAPPY DAVID
Time traveler, Raja Yoga practi and Let's G ambassador

Something exclusive is coming your way in Inquirer Sunday Lifestyle.

Don't miss the September 16 issue of the Inquirer.

INQUIRER

ERCAN
...uitarist

FRANCINE PRIETO
Model, actress

ALEKEI VILLARAZA
Publicist

JILL LEJANO
Lomographer

...meteev and Yulia Yakushova have thought of yet another big thrill for the voyeurs and exhibitionists of the ...com is slowly gaining popularity as the online equivalent of digging through people's pockets—and bags. Inspired by Timur and Yulia, this ...s of people—actresses, designers, photographers, corporate warriors, artists—to spill their guts by showing us what they always carry ...es are more than just a kick for the nosy, they reveal priorities, passions and people's psyche. And because we wouldn't ask anyone to do ...we bent over our scanners and laced our own pockets too. Just call us the Mad Scanners. And the best part is we're only getting started.

GERARD MARCELO
Cafe Man

LIEZEL DEL ROSARIO
Kidney artist

TALS DIAZ
Super columnist, Word nerd

TESSA PRIETO-VALDES
Celebrity Duets' singing interior designer

JONAS ASISTIO
Art director and lomographer

JAMES GABRILLO
Super columnist, Thunder cat

IRENE PINEDA
Artist, designer

MELANIE VICENTE
Work Force analyst

AARON AYUSA
Drummer

PAOLO REYES
Super columnist, Rogue specialist

Wired Science

With a little help from ordinary tools and everyday objects, Terry Border brings his bizarre sculptures of bent wire to life

IF PIXAR BLOCKBUSTER "Eric Story" made you think twice about the anthropomorphic life of your lifeless, G.I. Joe, and Voldemort figurines, there an imaginative little blog will make you question the unwaveringly lifeless objects that lurk within your fridge, office drawers, and kitchen cabinets.

Weighed somewhere between the worlds of avant hobbies and pre-teen-stroking high art is Bent Objects (bentobjects.blogspot.com), a site that exhibits feisty metrical objects. Fed by an eccentric, humorous artist named Terry Border.

Using an ample supply of metal wires, rotary pliers, and everyday household products (be it a box of Pepsi crackers, a Campbell's soup can, or a slice of Kraft cheese), Border—who holds Bachelor of Science degree in Fine Art Photography—crafts together a whimsical line of sculptures worthy of a curious second look, and a good laugh.

Born to be wired

"I'm the kind of person who laughs at the absurdities of life, which doesn't mean he declares in the About Me page of his decidedly spartan website. "After four decades on Planet Earth, I feel I've finally found a way to bring into existence all of my crazy thoughts and ideas."

Bent Objects is essentially a free canvas for Border to showcase "the things he makes and the images he takes," majority of which are well-composed photographs of the quirky, three-dimensional wire pieces he cobbles together in the garage of his Indianapolis home.

After working as a commercial photographer for several years, he started to explore wire sculptures as a weekend hobby. But in a matter of months, he already began selling small mobiles (hanging sculptures) in an gallery-art festival.

"Whether it's with wire, aluminum bars, brass, or whatever—most of my work is simply me drawing by bending metal," he says.

Border says he's not a trained artist, but he's always been interested in sculpture and mechanics. In fact, he even published a "Quickie Wire How-To" last June for those interested in his unorthodox art form.

"There are not real, precise machine shop products," he says. "I rarely even make any real measurements, although I have an idea where I'm going with a piece, I always leave plenty of latitude to explore and play."

Walk on the wired side

A few months after it was launched in September 2006, Border's online exhibition space has become a byword in the blogosphere. The site has been raking in enough links and hits that his San Francisco-based publishing company, Blogger, even included it in their list of esteemed "Blogs of Note" list.

It even spawned another blog, digitally lives (really-best.blogspot.com)—the more cynical, blank-sheep-sibling of Bent Objects.

After struggling to find a language where he could express his offbeat sense of humor and bizarre ideas, Border found consolation in the universal medium of bent wires.

"I enjoy taking hackneyed shapes, or just ordinary, mundane out of an old textbook, and remixing them into weird, but usually animated, metal sculptures," he says. "By translating the shape of an object—a stapled print, a fork, a Oldsmobile—into a mechanical metal construction, the context is changed to make the ever-imagined look a little longer."

In the next time you find yourself bored and broke and with nothing better to do, or would be wise to do, remember that—with a little help from your hands and a weird imagination—the ordinary can be made extraordinary in the most novel ways.

The Powder Revolution!
SMOOTH
Maybelline

Hot Wired!

How to bend it like Terry Border

"The best way to learn this material is to write with it. That's right, never! The biggest thing about wire is that you can only draw as well in wire as you can with a pencil or pen. It is exactly the same in a lot of ways."

"With loops placed at strategic points in your work, you can build strength and stability. These are the areas to meeting points in the sculpture. With a couple of loops and a twist of the wire, we can roughly make a circle."

"When you wrap wire, it must be wrapped tightly and consistently. This will keep your work from looking sloppy and amateurish. It's best if you use your pliers to grab the loose end and wrap it around, because your fingers can't usually do it well enough."

"Don't be afraid to try your own thing, your own way with wire, it might be better! There are no rules here, if it works for you—go for it!"

'Although I have an idea where I'm going with a piece, I always leave plenty of latitude to explore and play'

Oops! With regards to FOOD Designers designation logo, we would like to correct their list of clients. They did not work on beers and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Move on

By James Gatcliffe
Photography by Andy Mahaffey

To get from point A to point B in the most efficient and flowing manner achievable movement called Parkour or l'art du déplacement which means "the art of displacement."

In order to master the art, one must be able to master his or her mind first.

Infact, Parkour founder David Belle encouraged this form of training to have some bearing on the practitioner's thought for critical thinking.

In an interview with BBC News, Belle said, "Our aim is to take our art to the world and make people understand what it is to move."

Apart from that, Parkour is a demonstration of a mode of freedom, where one learns to trust his or her mind and heart no matter what.

It should be pointed out however that Parkour is not a sport, where contend dashing exists.

Not only does it possess aesthetic elements, it also provides a venue for people to exhibit their boundless energies.

In this Super shoot, we called a few pals who practise the art and discipline of Parkour to test their skills and techniques in the dizzying, tricky streets of Miranda.

The Powder Revolution!

PowerShot
A GREAT SHOT EVERY TIME

Canon
Delighting You Always

GET THE MOST WINNING SHOTS
FROM A TRUE WINNER.

Make every shot a PowerShot.

DIGIC

Super answers

CELEBRITIES are constantly bombarded with interviews. This time, Super turns the tables on them and gives them the chance to ask the question—and we want you—yes, you—to give them the answers.

Last week, Paolo Bediones wanted to know, "Who do you want to be with for the rest your life?

Grace Rioza, MD, said: "Paolo, let me answer that question with another question: If you love someone, does it really matter?"

This week, Priscilla Meirelles wants to know, "Where in the city can you find the most breathtaking view of Manila?"

E-mail your answers to super@inquirer.com.ph with the subject heading "super answers." Your Super answer will be printed next week.

The Powder Revolution begins...

NEW
CLEAR SMOOTH
ULTRA-FINE SHINE FREE FACE POWDER

Oil absorbing ingredients remove shine.
Silk-smooth texture blends gently, giving you flawless skin. For a perfect natural look.

ONLY P199

NOW AVAILABLE in
291 mercury drug
MAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO
Outlets in Mega Manila and selected outlets in Cebu.

MERCURY DRUG BRANCHES

MAYBELLINE
NEW YORK

telecare
GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
Now Hiring Call Center Professionals
Hotline: 580-6530

Mandy Moore gave Super some love during the Washington DC stop of her US tour and talked about her new album Wild Hope and the other things that are rocking her world

By Pam Pastor

"WILD HOPE" ISN'T Mandy Moore's first album—far from it—but on some levels, it feels like one. After all, the now 23 year-old Mandy makes her songwriting debut in this record—and she does it with panache, collaborating with a number of artists including Rachael Yamagata, The Weepies and Lori McKenna. "I really haven't had the personal involvement on anything in the past, not like I do with this one."

The album, which was recorded at Allaire Studios in Woodstock, New York, was produced by John Alagia who has worked with John Mayer, Jane Marhoney and Liz Phair. "Wild Hope" has been reinvented as a labor of love that took Mandy two years to complete.

The record bears no traces of Mandy's bubblegum pop past. In place is an organic, folk sound and a stronger and more sophisticated voice. Not that she has misgivings about the very music that catapulted her to fame. "Teenpop was a great platform to start from. I'm not someone who regrets anything. But in those days, I was just given songs and told to go into the studio and record them. So, I think that as you get older, you change and so do your musical tastes. And not to have those changes reflected in the music I was so involved with was very disheartening to me."

Mandy believes her double life as a singer and actress played a part in her decision to take more control of her music. "It all became linked to the choices that I was making in movies. As an actor, you have submitted yourself with the likes you take on. If you never want to do an action movie, you don't have to. If you don't want to do anything you don't have to. It's case-by-case, project-by-project. For me all this went hand in hand with my music. I can't go off and do a movie with Steve Soutter, like between, Billy Crudup or Tom Wilkinson and then come back to make a record where I, as a creative source, am absent."

The result is an album which she feels represents her craft and expresses what it's like to be "a young woman figuring out life and where she fits into the scheme of things about love, relationships, and about being disappointed."

"Making this record has been the most exciting and fulfilling creative experience of my life," Mandy said. "I knew exactly what type of album I wanted to make and firmly held my ground."

There's no doubt about it, while other pop princesses have spent the past few years pretty much falling apart right before our eyes, Mandy has grown up gracefully, carving a name for herself not just in music but in film and television as well.

Mandy Moore gave Super some love during the Washington DC stop of her US tour and talked about her new album Wild Hope and the other things that are rocking her world:

When I interviewed you in Manila in 2003, you were excited about coming out with your album Coverage. How much have you changed since then?

I think I've just grown up like most young women. You find new things you gravitate to and hopefully find a comfort zone with them. Coverage was definitely the beginning for the ride toward "Wild Hope."

How would you describe this new album? What makes it different from your previous ones?

This album is me. My words and music. The recording process was different in that I had control—a lot. I was there for the entire thing rather than just being there to sing my part. This album was about putting my all into it—personally and professionally.

What's your favorite song from the album?

I think my favorite song would have to be "Wild Hope." It was definitely the most vivid summary of writing. I have to say that some of those songs really came off as difficult to write. Some of them I really came into their own while recording but the ones

Oh Mandy

Continued on D3

tory with all of my co-writers was really amazing.

You're currently on tour now. Where are you now and how was your last show?

I'm in Washington DC now. The last few shows have actually been the best. The audiences are really hearing about the tour and showing up with so much enthusiasm and support. This has been the funnest part of the whole project.

I know you collaborated with Rachael Yamagata for 'Ladies' Choice.' I am a huge fan of hers and flew to Singapore to meet her. She speaks so highly of you and loves you—what was it like working with her?

Rachael is just amazing—like a sister. We instantly bonded when we first met and then song came about literally within a few hours. She just gets me and we are both so open and free when it comes to writing.

You're on tour now with Rachael and Paula Cole—what is that like?

The tour is going amazingly well. Rachael is on our bus so it's like one big happy family then (as is going to join for a few dates when/if I'm also really excited about).

What was working on License to Wed like?

Robin Williams is just too funny. There were many scenes where I couldn't even get through them. It was great to work with someone who is just so quick and it causes to bring out the best in you.

What has been your favorite role so far?

I think my favorite role thus far was as then Hillary Swank in "Freedom" or Lucy in my most current film "Bedlamites."

You've done a number of collaborations—which has been your favorite so far?

I think "Ladies Choice" would have to be one of them, for sure.

Who else would you like to collaborate with?

I would love to do something with Wilco. I am just obsessed with them.

If you had to choose between acting and singing, which one would you pick?

I think I would have to choose singing. There is nothing like being onstage and getting that instant feedback that you just don't get from doing film work. I am so happy to get the best of both worlds, though.

How do you stay sane while on tour?

Good friends. Sleep. And more good friends. My band (members) are just amazing and we are like family.

Do you have plans of returning to Asia?

I am hoping to get back there before the end of this year, actually. I hope so. I miss it so much.

What's the best thing about being what you do?

I think just the simple fact that I love doing what I do. When and if the time comes that I don't, I know I will make a change. For now, it's just awesome.

How do you psyche yourself up for a gig?

My band and I sing a lot before going onstage. It just puts me in the comfort zone and relaxes me.

What are your future plans? What are you excited about?

I want to keep touring and take this documentary nearly I'm hoping this will go thru the new year. I have a few film projects I am contemplating as well.

What else can Mandy Moore fans expect?

I hope a lot more music in the near future, definitely touring and a few films in 2008. Happy to be busy!

Don't get Jodie mad

The Brave One was a great experience but it was also terribly lonely. Sometimes with dramas that's the way it is.'

"I THINK WE ALL have these ideas that there are lines that we would never cross and people we could never be," says Jodie Foster, the star of Warner Bros.' new suspense thriller "The Brave One." The two-time Oscar-winner plays radio host Erica Bain whose life is shattered when a brutal attack leaves her badly wounded and her fiancé dead. Unable to move past the tragedy, Erica begins prowling the city streets at night to track down the men she holds responsible.

She continues, "And yet, you don't know who you would become in a certain circumstance. You might assume, irrationally, what your ethics might be, but until you are forced into a situation that challenges you, that changes you, you can't know who you would be."

In this Super! interview, Foster talks about her new movie and her unwavering passion for her craft.

How did you feel after making The Brave One?

It is a movie that I really immersed in. I spent a lot of time on the script and getting it to this point. It was such a satisfying opportunity. It was a great experience but it was also terribly lonely. Sometimes with dramas that's the way it is.

Are you similar to Erica in any way?

There are some things that are similar. She is an intellectual. She is somebody who thinks about life and thinks about the world and is in some ways quite philosophical. She is not just an unconscious beast. So, I think that is similar to me. And I do write a book also that are the solitary journeys, somebody who has this path on their own and they have less than husband or don't have partners. I am usually the central person, and I think that is a part of me, too—that my creative spirit is quite solitary. But other than that, I don't know.

How far would Jodie go to stand up for herself?

You don't know, do you? I am not a particularly brave person. I am in my work but I don't know that I am in my life. I don't know if I am really brave. I have no temper. I don't get mad. If I am mad, I get really articulate. I am very good at telling somebody off, like suddenly I find those words in every language.

How do you prepare to play a role for a character that is a victim of crime?

I looked a lot at post-traumatic stress syndrome. I read a lot about that, but I think that [this] is very different. She is the character that didn't get help. She needed to get help and she didn't get help. I realized a lot—like crazy, crazy amounts of walking, like thousands of miles everywhere in Manhattan. Some of it was being completely isolated and [wearing] headphones. It is kind of a meditative/zonal experience.

Do you have an idea of what you want the audience to draw from the film?

No one, this is a very sophisticated film that in some ways has references to the films of the 1970s, our American movies of the 1970s, films that are pursuits of an audience in some ways.

Can you relate to people who take shannon like Erica does?

I can't relate to that. I have to imagine it because I play her. Yes I relate to her pain and her powerlessness and to her psychosis, her descent into madness but I am a bio-chemist person.

Do you think there are parallels between this film and "Taxi Driver?"

I think it is a great comparison. "Taxi Driver" is a wonderful movie and it is a great American classic. It was 25 years ago and New York is a completely different place now. Parts of all, Erica is an entirely different character from Travis Bickle. Not only is she female, which totally changes her experience, but she is conscious. She is intelligent and she is philosophical, and she knows what is happening. Travis is completely unconscious and totally unaware. He creates on his emotions and he doesn't know why. He has a perspective on the world that is entirely subjective. He has no higher side that is looking down on his experiences, so that makes it a completely different movie. It has a different feeling to it, I am. Also, the New York of the 1970s was directly after Vietnam. His character is also sort of Vietnam-ish, etc. This is New York after 9/11. It is the urban big city in the world, it is not like it was in the 70s. When I shot Taxi Driver in the 70s we shot in an 130s and 140 with all the child prostitutes, unless you can't get an apartment there for under 4 million dollars! I mean, that is like a luxurious neighborhood in New York. It is a changed environment and yet there is this terrible undercurrent of fear that is somewhat real.

How do feel after 40 years of cinema?

I really don't know. Isn't it crazy? I really can't believe it. When I was a kid my mom said, "By the time you are 16 or 17, your career will be over, so get used to that idea." (In at 16 I thought, "Okay well I'll just try a little and I'll make some money and then I'll go on to other things.' But it just kind of continued. And then my mom always said, 'Women's careers are always over at 40. So, what are you going to do you after your 40s?' And I was very prepared for that, to say, 'Okay well I've been a producer and I've been a director, and I won't be an actor in my 40s.' It just keeps going.

How do you feel about the future?

I don't know ... I'm not very excited about acting in my 50s but I'm very excited about acting in my 70s. I feel like that is a whole new career of roles that will be so interesting and different. To be a real person who has lived with that experience and who has class then. And I am happy to embrace that. I am excited about that.

What do you think you would have become if you weren't an actress?

Well, I didn't know. In college I knew I could write and that is what I did. But I guess I don't really enjoy it, because I don't do it. I probably would have ended up teaching. That seems to be my thing that I do well—I am a good talker. I am good at talking.

The Brave One opened in cinemas last September 12.

"I DON'T know if I am really brave. I have no temper. I don't get mad."

"I TEND to choose roles that are the solitary journeys."

JODIE Foster says she has no temper and is not brave.

Your World of Privileges

ANG MAS MATINDING WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD℠ LIBRE AT MAS MARAMI NANG DAHILAN PARA MAGSAYA!

Kung wala ka pang FREE Western Union Gold Card, mag-apply na at
• Automatically entitled ka sa Basic Gold Benefits just by presenting your card.
• Every time you Send or Receive money with Western Union, you get Premium Gold Benefits!
Mas maraming pang discounts and bonuses ang makakuha ka!*

Sign up for the improved Western Union Gold Card. Libre ka! Call 888 1200 within Metro Manila or 021 888 1200 outside Metro Manila. (NDD rates apply) or 1 800 1 888 1200 (PLDT toll-free) or 1 800 3 888 1200 (Globelines toll free) for more information.

Philippines · Diamond Hotel · DHL · Goldilocks · Jollibee · WESTERN UNION

iPOD AMBUSH

High note

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Jill Lopez

Super and Apple gave Kate Torralba an iPod nano to thank her for giving the local music scene a boost. You can win one too!

YOU'VE SEEN ONE KIND OF iPOD commercial—the one where we stop you to find out what's been nothing your earphones. But there's another, even more exciting kind. The very cool people of Apple have given Super the license to spot local musicians we think you should know. We stalk them at gigs, get them to spill the beans about their music and are give them an iPod Nano (yeah, the oldest, chunkiest one).

...a gift from us and Steve Jobs for giving the local music scene a boost. But here's the really cool part—every time we give them an iPod Nano, we get to give you one too.

This week, we iPod Ambushed classic-pinoy-indie-soul-singer Kate Torralba.

Caught at ... the exclusive preview of Greenbelt 5 featuring her collection, Kate said, "It was a bit surreal—but great! The reality of having the store finally ready to, haha. My family, friends, clients and colleagues came to support me—it felt like it was my birthday! I'm so thankful to my family and hardworking staff, Ayala Land, Atelier Almacin, Ralph's Liquor Store, and Cibo for helping me put it together!"

Currently busy with—the opening of her new store which she says will feature "Everything ICT. The clothes, the purses, the colors, the knick, and even the music! More than anything, it's a labor of love." Describes her music as ... "A hodgepodge of the stuff I like, translated in piano. I've always been a rock chick but was trained in classical piano—and I dabble in pop every now and then. So imagine what that sounds like. And, someone has gotta fill like my shoes. Maybe I'll do it!"

What's one song you can't stop listening to now? 1234 by Feist. I love it so

HUMTERGEDDING MUSICIAN. "Music is my first love!" says Kate Torralba.

What five songs should our readers put in their iPods? Aside I'm such a music lover, dump these lists kills me! How can you pick just five?!?! Anything from Feist's latest offering - the Reminder, to The Mountain Goats, to Fleetwood Mac's Rumours, to Kings of Convenience, Do You Remember the First Time? - Pulp, and even if it isn't new, 'If I Ever Feel Better' by Phoenix. It's my pulse-upper song.

How to get your dose of Kate Torralba. Check out the first ever Kate Torralba store-in-exhibit at the Greenbelt 5 Lobby which will run until Sept. 23. Kate will be playing at the Oh Infity! event in Bogsie on Sept. 21 with Cambio, Chalmers, Johnoy, Champagne Morales, Unique and The Reunion. Her first EP will be available in her store in December.

Win an iPod Nano!

Want to see how you vs. Kate Torralba's biggest fan and win an iPod Nano? Be an instant recycle star. E-mail your entries to super@hotpinoy.com pls along with your name, age, school/office and contact info.

SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS WITH HP.

Get a free pair of Crocs when you buy an HP Printer.

With the HP Officejet 4355 All-in-One, everyday printing is made exciting. All in a compact and stylish design that lets you print, copy, scan and fax all your photos and documents with reliable performance. Get all these functions and more, color. That's both love-to-file and long lasting. Get the HP Officejet 4355 All-in-One or any of the printers featured in this ad and get a free pair of Crocs. Promotional offer has been extended to October 31, 2007. How that's real excitement to an All-in-One!

HP ALL-IN-ONES. PRINT. FAX. SCAN. COPY.

₱5,990 ₱6,690 ₱12,990

₱9,990 ₱13,990 ₱17,980

1-800-1441-4646
or (632) 847-3387
ph.contactHP.com

hp invent

ANG MAS MATINDING WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD!*

Your World of Privileges

TAG-ULAN TREATS MULA SA WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD!*

ABENSON

- P5000 off on automatic washing machine*
- P5000 off on selected refrigerator from or purchase*
- Free Nescafe's "The Wind" DVD Boxset and fan for a minimum purchase of P15,000 worth of Asahi brand appliances* (any brand)

- Two free sponge cheesecake/dark yakimix on the first or any subsequent for a minimum purchase of P500*
- Free Bag (pink, navy, chocolate or Pangasinan) for a minimum purchase of P1,000*
- Free Grilled Pusit for a minimum purchase of P 500*

- Free Caramel Popcorn Big for a minimum single receipt purchase worth P200*

- Free 1GB SD Memory Card with purchase of Canon or Kodak Digital Camera*
- Free 1 GB USB Drive with purchase of any computer package (Brands included: HP, Acer, Asiantech, Lenovo)

*Other terms and conditions apply. Subject to Western Union Agent's policies. Terms and Conditions apply. See store for details. Promo period is from July 1, 2007 - September 30, 2007. For Global Rewards, SMS: Reward <space> to 2366.

WESTERN UNION

HEAR popular American rock band [illegible] during their exclusive one-night performance, "Friends in Enemies World Tour," at the Acoustic Cohesion on Friday, Sept. 21. Better start dialing 891-8888 before those tickets get going, going, gone!

EXPERIENCE Rise to the Global Rave Planet on Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Blue Leaf Pavilion (1300 Park Ave., McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio). Join a worldwide assembly of yoga teachers, students, and enthusiasts as they move your body through a jam-packed day of Surya Namaskar rounds led by Sally Lloyd and Gerry Feliciano, a lecture on soul-stirring, inspiring stories by Pinoy Zen, titled Humanizing Spirituality by David Seaman, and yoga remix dance classes led by Teresa Fevero. Visit globalmala.org.

24/7 Super Radar

By Paola R. Reyes and Jaime Cuenca Dario

SEE supermodels take the runway for a good cause. Tomorrow, Sept. 16, the [illegible] siblings—Bella, Raymond, and Richard—will lead [illegible] runway for Charity at the Penthouse Tent, Makati. The fund-raising event for Water & Wish Foundation and World Vision will feature a whole-day celebrity bazaar, a fashion show, and an auction of designer creations. It's on 1 during the evening gala. Call 725-7458, 721-2438 or email [illegible]@gmail.com.

FEEL nostalgic over the '80s as Manoman 101 (101 Yeoh Qi-, Makati) pays tribute to the legendary Pinoy Rock dance club, Planet Rock (1985-1995), tonight at 10 p.m. Relive the glory days with Pinoy Rock owners Jay Sarver and Kenneth Tesoro, as DJ Elmer Dado and other surprise performers bring their pioneering, pulsating sounds to the present day. Entrance is free till midnight. Call 997-0535.

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: super to 09[illegible]
2331 (Globe/Smart) 385 (Smart)

Rehab is for everybody!

SOMEWHERE BEtween heaven and the ninth circle of hell, and near the epicenter of Hollywood, lies a mythical, magical place. It is frequented by famous rock stars and celebutantes, and remains a popular hangout, even to jail of course. It's called Rehab.

I truly wonder what those hallowed outpatient halls like, and what exactly constitutes their 12-step recovery programs, especially since every star who comes out of it is always termed as "fresh," to me. "Fresh out of rehab, Lindsay Britney Nicole now vows to focus on shunky work and saving the whales!"

Wish streamlike, editorial names such as "Promises," "Pardonland," or "Priory." I get those visual pegs of a rather wealthy spa, with snow-white uniforms rushing in out, perfectly manicured lawns, and infinity pools edged with giant, blooming red roses. Freshly squeezed fruit juice and milk is served every where by menopause attendants dressed in white, constantly smiling at you with gleaming, perfect rows of teeth.

Then again, it could be just a front for what is really a Clockwork Orange-like facility, with patients subjected to a modern version of the Ludovico Technique. They're drugged and strapped down to chairs, eyelids are pried open by steel pincers, and they're forced to watch those clichéd scenes in "Requiem for a Dream" to induce nausea. In that case, Amy Winehouse has every right to cry no, no, no to her very concerned peers trying to make her go, go, go.

Alternative rehab suggestions for those suffering from other dangerous addictions

Pop cultural purgatory

Whatever it is, rehab is a sort of no-fly zone, a safehouse away from the paparazzi that promises a second life to the wayward. It is a

MORE ▼

SAY no to drugs.

There's nothing like relaxing with a bottle of C2 Green Tea at the end of the day. It's brewed from natural green tea leaves that contain L-theanine, a type of amino acid that helps relieve stress and anxiety - so you can keep living that cool and clean C2 life!

A New Lifestyle Philosophy Live the cool and clean life by experiencing these activities that will rejuvenate your body, broaden your mind and nourish your soul.

September			October		
8	Yoga		6	Walking Tour of Intramuros	
15	Silver Yoga		13	Old Manila Walks	
22	Free workouts		20	Images of Rizal at the PNP Museum	
29	Wall Painting		27	Green Pilgrim Hikes at Manila Museum	

Experience the C2 Life now! Visit www.C2.com.ph/lifestyle for more interesting activities. For more information, log on to www.facebook.com

"It's dusty here!"

White powder, silver screen

By Maggie Gallagher

HOLLYWOOD HAS its share of weird moments. Films have opened a window into the world of cocaine use and whether or not some films have doubled as its consequences, coke always manages to come out looking like the most glamorous drug. Here's a line-up:

Scarface

Horribly yet deliciously excessive, "Scarface" was written by Oliver Stone and directed by Brian de Palma and stars Al Pacino as Tony Montana. A Cuban hit man claiming political asylum in the US, Tony Montana rises to the coke underworld after his first violent brush of it where his friend gets dismembered with a chainsaw (I scream getting dismembered at the beginning isn't violent enough for you, wait for the ending where Tony, after taking an immense amount of powder up the nose, ends up arming himself with an M16 assault rifle and a grenade launcher and defends himself against the fat men of a Bolivian drug lord.

Traffic

Set mainly solely about auto-line white powder! Multiple storylines all interconnected but never unconvincing, as told by the very able Steven Soderbergh in his Academy Award winning directorial effort. Most memorable is Erika Christensen in her MTV movie award winning role (best breakthrough actor) as the daughter of a conservative judge (Michael Douglas) who is a coke fiend and in one scene, mired in a point of almost boiling a toddler, she prostitutes herself for money to pay for her fix. Now isn't that Daddy's Little Girl?

Boogie Nights

Mark Wahlberg is Dirk Diggler, a porn star whose meteoric rise is only equalled by his genuine (a) full (and his rather enormous package!). An addiction to cocaine and methamphetamines causes impotence and, later on, paranoia, which spells disaster for Dirk Diggler. The lesson point? Cocained induced meltdowns makes him drink he can sing. It's actually so hilarious, if it weren't so sad, flagrant performance by

PEAK for your thoughts

Wahlberg. Superb!

Blow

Penelope Cruz, Johnny Depp and a hotel of cocaine. Need I say more?

Cruel Intentions

Being bad never looked so cool! Sarah Michelle Gellar's Kathryn Merteuil, by appearances, is the perfect girl – well put-together, articulate, smart, fashionable, beautiful and rich. To top it all off? She wears coke cells around her neck, isn't that lovely? If only people knew that's where she keeps her supply of cocaine which she needs to find the strength to have to portray Miss Mary Sunshine 24/7. Now isn't that lovely?

Gia

Well, more than the true story of a super model's rise and fall and struggle with substance abuse, it's watching Angelina Jolie's breakthrough performance as the title character Gia Carangi. At the height of her fame and glory, Jolie brings the super model back to life and then dies when she overdoses AGAIN. From a contaminated needle after she kicks her habit. She should never have done heroin.

Hollywood as pop culture pushers

True Romance

Directed by Tony Scott and written by Quentin Tarantino, Christian Slater finds himself in love with a prostitute played by Patricia Arquette and marrying her the very next day only to

"DAD! I swear I thought it was baking soda."

find himself in a confrontation with her pimp, a white man who thinks he's black, played wonderfully by Gary Oldman. As Slater learns, he brings the wrong suitcase, which is filled with cocaine and finds himself going to Hollywood to sell it. Unforgettable movie moment? Brannon Pitudeal, from the infamous show "Perfect Strangers," who plays a Hollywood executive, gets caught by cops on the road with a case full of cocaine. Ballz marvelous x coke head? Who knew?

Honorable Mentions

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

"Monty Python" alumni Terry Gilliam directs Johnny Depp and Benicio del Toro in the film adaptation of Hunter Thompson's novel. Playing journalists heading out to Las Vegas, the two main characters take copious amount of different illegal substances causing all of reality to distort around them. Coke was one of many things they took but it's the scene with mescaline that takes the cake!

A Scanner Darkly

While the movie is mostly about the fictional drug Substance D and its dreams, hallucinating and schizophrenic effects, Winona Ryder's Donna is a coke fiend. Done completely in rotoscope animation, the actors engage in somewhat cringe-worthy conversations as Keanu Reeves's Bob Arctor, an undercover narcotics agent, tries to infiltrate the drug underworld. More than a drug movie, there's also a theme of truth and identity as the film asks how bad their truth suits illegal substances. Rianna Keanu, Winona Ryder, Woody Harrelson and Robert Downey Jr.

Pulp Fiction

Not really a coke moment, since the drug shows a heroin but it was mistaken as cocaine in the film and creates a lasting impression. If Uma Thurman's dancing didn't get her nominated for an Oscars, it's certainly for dying on screen with a line of heroin (and possibly her "testosterone" scene somway of a shot of adrenaline straight to the heart). A word of warning: know your drugs! Uma and co-star may look alike but they get into the system in very different ways. Be warned!

THE day after joy

Pulp Fiction

Not really a coke moment, since the drug shown is heroin but it was mistaken as cocaine in the film and creates a lasting impression. If Uma Thurman's dancing didn't get her nominated for an Oscars, it's certainly for dying on screen with a line of heroin (and possibly her "testosterone" scene somway of a shot of adrenaline straight to the heart). A word of warning: know your drugs! Uma and co-star may look alike but they get into the system in very different ways. Be warned!

Honorable Mentions

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

"Monty Python" alumni Terry Gilliam directs Johnny Depp and Benicio del Toro in the film adaptation of Hunter Thompson's novel. Playing journalists heading out to Las Vegas, the two main characters take copious amount of different illegal substances causing all of reality to distort around them. Coke

Chasing Amy

By Pan Pranee

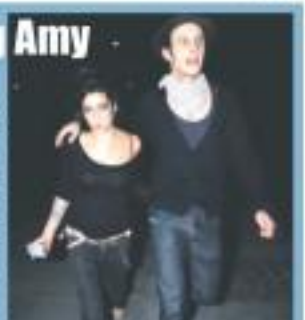
THEY TRIED TO make her go to rehab but she said no, no, no.

That is until last month, when Amy Winehouse, the singer behind the hit song "Rehab," collapsed after taking a cocktail of drugs (reports said it was a mix of heroin, crack cocaine, ketamine and alcohol) and had to be rushed to the hospital. The 24-year-old musician was admitted into a rehab which center with her husband Blake Fielder-Civil but they certainly don't seem to care.

Then, a couple of weeks later, the singer was hailed for giving drugs again when she had a violent fight with her husband that led to her scanning out of their London hotel room. Instead, Winehouse said optimistic with blood, Blake's face was also covered with blood and scratches. They made up that same night—walking back to the hotel together.

Hearing speculations about her continued boozing, Amy defended Blake with a series of tems: "Blake is the first man in the world, the world never seen hearts such sillers," she revealed blogger Peter Abbott, saying that the fight started because she was missing herself and Blake caught her about to do drugs in their hotel room.

Amy and Blake's passion have all been shattered by recent events. Blurted about what they suspect to their children's cousins, crack and heroin addiction, Amy Winehouse's father-in-law some no idea rehab could be called for a bor-



rett, asking him to stop buying her cocaine in front Amy to exasperate her problem.

Amy's father-in-law, Mitch, is the Daily Mail reported that Amy's record label sent her to the Castlemoss to counsel to discuss their herself up. But according to The Sunday Mirror, the staff at the resort where Amy and Blake stayed said that Amy ventured Hazel in her room and refused them of for to call a doctor.

Amy showed up days later for a performance at the Mercury Music Prize awards looking rather sad and battling her hoarse is still worried. "Amy is playing human zombie with her health and mental girl. She's far herself. We've not talk big about me Amy. It's not something I'm proud of," she said in a recent interview.

Amy, who won the three British Awards label boxed at this year's BRIT Awards, has much fans on of a lot of people—even Prince has wanted one of her songs. Comedian Ross Noble was worried about the singer's situation but just because of the damaged image to her career but because of how much her health has deteriorated.

There's no doubt that these are countless fingers pointed around the world, hoping she'll get you, yes, joy before it's too late.

From page E1

pop-related programs that offers a chance for redemption even after a seemingly irreparable mistake. I am reminded of that fictional Ted Haggard who, after being exposed by a male prostitute for a 3-year affair, resurrected his life and ended a few weeks later, reinvented as "completely his evangelical." Makes me wonder what the treatment was like to cure homosexuality, though I think it would have something to do with banning Madonna videos until late night chat-outs.)

Should rehab then be limited to substance abuse? Addiction, after all, is not limited to pills, pastables and pots. Most, be they shahs or shoes, are innate to escape, carry buttons from reality, and are indicative of much deeper, cravings borne out of personal fears and insecurities. Yes, to move those crutches and you to real human frailties and vulnerabilities, which are the real all success and of practitioners. Everybody is a work in progress, after all.

In this light, perhaps there should be a favourable rehab programs for our very own local "superstar" media seeking a new kind of title. A few humble suggestions:

Olympus rehabilitation for irrepressible snobs

Blatantly known as the Celio Rehabilitation Centre (over British spellings), it runs exactly reminded after the pictorial home of the ancient Greek gods, an homage to Mads Fernandez's recent Mediterranean exposé's land downward spiral into the fiery bowels of the Mount Olympus. Olympus Rehab offers treatment for acute Status Addictus.

SOUL to consider

Clients are made to detox from credit cards, D' Isoppo-rochicals served in long stemmed glasses, "no cost" and basically anything that signifies a luxurious lifestyle (or gives an image of it). Their 12-step process includes daily meditation, viewings of "MAD" advertorial Tagalog lessons, regular rush hour commutes, and unmalleable sessions with Ate and Charito refugee-turned-shi.

Epiphany rehab for former dictators

In the tradition of coups of both the bloody and bloodless kind, an erstwhile dictator is whisked away by an innocuous, big party limo or Mitchina, to an undisclosed location or small island like Hawaii or Corsica. While there, the former ruler is granted small luxuries to help ease the process of atonement.

Guilty former rulers undergo detoxification from guilt, lifting, secrecy and illegal wealth. The real addictions, of course, is power. Treatment lasts for several years, or until, well, death.

Mercuries center for stockbook addicts

Named after the Roman god of swift messaging services, this world-wide grossing facility treats willing clients who are addicted to social networking sites. Clients are banned from using the internet for Friendster, Multiply, Myspace or Facebook, and are instead encouraged to socialize in real life settings, prompting real friendships with non-avatars.

Anonymous anonymous

Also known as rehab for has-been celebrities and ex-socialites. The recovery program for has-beens involves non-watching old episodes of their once-successful programs or movies. Instead, they undergo daily grammar sessions where they learn how to leave the present tense. Skills training harness on hosting provincial talent shows and beauty pageants, for the humble future work in Marina Hospa.

Ex-socialites are made to sit around a circle, holding hands while repeating in unison the mantra coined by Inquirer's revered founder, Eggie Apostol: "There is more to life than the society pages. Overcome."

Rehabolenes

For those who will soon be addicted to addiction, thinking that the only prerequisite for endorse those days is to be recovering from something, this is your re-admitting your addictions becomes a widespread phenomenon, it becomes more, errant, thereby making reality the new drug of choice.

My life with The Quentin

(Volume One)

By Quark Henares

Part I: How Pulp Fiction Changed My Life

IT WAS MARCH 1995, I REMEMBER. THE school year had just ended and to celebrate I headed on down to Free Percent, my neighborhood video store. I asked them the question I had asked a thousand times before... "Anaay na ba ang Pulp Fiction?" To my surprise, Guess the clerk said, "Oo, sir meron ambisyon."

It was favorable, but it ended up being a bad Chinese copy. I passed the movie and returned on whether I should continue watching despite the shoddy quality and decided that no, I should. Little did I know that that bad Chinese bootleg later she would go on to change my life. With its historical and realistic dialogue, suspense around every corner, uncomfortable lovable characters and unconventional way of presenting plot, Pulp Fiction became my favorite film. It wasn't only that... all my life I had known that I wanted to be a storyteller, but it was only after watching Pulp Fiction that I realized what medium I wanted to work in. With cinema characters became more real, collaborating with people to tell a story seemed more fun, and most importantly I realized how rewarding it would be watching your intended audience react on cue. WOW! watching your work with them. Only was that turning point in my life that made me decide to be a filmmaker.

Part II: The Banter I Now Have Breakup to My Boss(Even Though I Don't Drink)

"Hey, you know what? I've got enough of these in my luggage and don't think I really need any more." In cases, as he hands over a gold bar with a huge smile. "Bonding 50 years."

Quentin Tarantino is hosting his birthday/Anniversary bash. In his hotel room. I may have dreamed of something like this when I was a bored new film fan at the age of 14, but if I ever did it was one of those fantasies that were swept under the rug for reasons like getting to make out with Teri Hatcher or having an affair with some high school teacher. Tarantino parties hark and both as he talks, doing his signature hand motions to stress certain points. I feel like I know this guy with all the interviews I've seen and read of his before the moment.

This is just like another one of those interviews—except it's all happening in front of me, and apparently I'm the interviewer. "OK, OK, favorite character I've ever written. That's a good question. I think without a doubt, it would be The Bride. Then John. Then Mr. Blonde. Then Gogo." Tarantino's got a bit of a repetitive—ejaculatory, if I may, connected filmmaker—but I find that impossible to believe. I just dropped him a line to tell him that I'm having his videoke VCDs with the front cloth, and suddenly this guy invites me up to his hotel room to discuss the shit's and talk film—an hour before he has to leave for the airport. And really... Tarantino's doing all the entertaining. He's telling me about how he got Michael Madsen to play the comic that went to both "Indian Jones" and "Star of Night." He's talking about his plans for his next film, the wonderfully titled "Inglorious Bastards" (We're the most huge cinematic I have to agree even. It's a big bastard title, but of we that I'm thinking maybe I can see the shearing."). Finally he talks about how much he likes it here and how he wants to come back as soon as possible. (Tell film a business. But now I'm done my job and I'm over a lot of great people and when I come back there won't be work anymore. I'll just drop by and say 'Hey guys!' and hang out.") I then realized something about Quentin Tarantino that's never really been touched on by the thousands of articles written about him. The guy's a sweet heart. It's endearing how much cinema means to him, and how I can honestly believe this guy's going to stretch every single Filipino DVD bootleg to hate dre-

ME WITH Cannes Palme d'Or winner Quentin Tarantino. Photo by Short Palm d'Or winner Raymond Red.

ing the trip. He's a swell guy, and it's great when the person who's indirectly changed your life actually ends up being a swell guy.

Part III: How Director Good Friend with Libya Real

Sandwich guitarist Diego Castillo and I didn't like each other much, back in the day. It didn't save on obnoxious spoiled brat, and I thought of him as a scum-sucking one. One normal day in '94 he comes in to JBL 205 wearing a T-shirt with the logo "Reservoir Dogs" on it, and I ask, "What's that? A band?"

"It's a movie."

"Yeah? Never heard of it."

"Have it. I think you'll like it."

And that was the longest conversation we'd had or that point. I don't know why, but right after that I headed out to Free Percent. Now that I'm a lover of "Reservoir Dogs," I threw me away. It was the first time in my young pubescent life that I'd ever seen people talk about horribly obscene stuff, or saw bystanders get shot randomly, or watched someone getting tortured. So Steadel's Wheel's "Stuck In The Middle With You" scene shocked it. I didn't even know that there were movies like that! However as Dogs set me on a path to becoming a cinephile, but it was also the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Short by after that Diego would recommend films like "A Clockwork Orange," "Clerks II," "The Shining," "Trafic, Boys N The Hood," "Taxi Driver," "The Godfather" and "Scarface." We'd talk nonstop about those movies, and we haven't stopped talking to this day. We're now about to start the film movie we've written together, and I dedicated my first movie to him and his then girlfriend Myrene, because, as the credits said, "They married it all." Probably should have put Tarantino in there as well.

Part IV: Stupid Things I Say When Most People Admire

This is how I met Quentin Tarantino. In the middle of a commercial interlock, one of our photographers at Show Biz Bulletin calls me and tells me that Guatemala host Tilony Aguilera-Sunn just handed the studio for a shoot with Tarantino, Chris Santiago and Eddie Romero. Before they could say "blueberry pie" I was rushing out and driving like the devil, calling all my partners to get there before the session was over. When I got there I saw my partner JA standing up the film-connected portrait.

"What?"

"Pinilit ko sila. Pati nga ako di ko makausap eh."

"What?"

"Sir, Pamasak lang sila, nagpa-picture-up daraweng roman at umalis."

"What?"

"Kanal nga nagpa-picture yung ibe at. Umalis na sila."

"MOTHERFUCKING SH*T F*CK IT DEAMN IT HOLD CHAP P CKING SH*T"

A few days later our photographer who Tarantino said she would have our newsom the of Quentin's upcoming release from. Inside the studio while she was taking pictures of a 2-hour old and her mommy.

Whatever. The kid will eventually hear those words anyway so it's better if they start young. I call Tilony and ask him where they are and he says Cibu. So I hit over there and, before anyone can stop me, I have them drive me to Tarantino and I head down and say "Sir Tarantino, I'm your a filmmaker be-cause I saw Pulp Fiction. It is an honor and a pleasure to meet you." He was very gracious about it—you know, "the pleasure is all mine" and all that. I sat him all by saying, "At Mbale, I promise to you my collector's pieces."

Which makes the above statement number eight in my "Stupid Things I Say When Most People I Admire" series. Yes, I wonder myself why I was "Gaminan" that. I first gave him "Rush is Limbaugh" but copies of the classic at the time. We talked a bit, but that first meeting I didn't want to stay sitting at him, my mouth agape the whole time. Before he left I decided it was the best time to have a picture taken with him. I looked around and the only person I found was Rembrandt Red!

When I was a high school film geek cracking out in all those film festivals to watch films by my favorite director Filmmaker Raymond Red and you told me that one day he would take a picture of me and Quentin Tarantino I would have never believed you.

Watch out for Volume II next week.

Calling All Mommies!

The "Ber" months are here! As you look forward to fun days ahead for the family, make sure that you are well-stocked with comfy clothes for your little ones so they get to in loads of fun and action.

Our color-play September Sale event – the best great baby sale of the year – offers you exciting choices in play clothes and day wear for babies and toddlers, all of which are cute, casual, comfortable, durable, and available at budget discounts.

Enjoy shopping for your little ones!

The Infants' Wear Family
SM Department Store

Value-shopping for baby clothes at SM

Great discounts, special buys, loads of free gifts, and exciting activities are in store for shoppers and their little ones during the month-long Baby Sale at the SM Infants' Wear Department.

It's value at its best with attractive discounts on collections of casual wear comfy playwear.

Baby's favorite Baby Looney Tunes friends join in the with photo opportunities and a Playtime Play Area from 11am to 6pm on the following dates at these branches:

Sept 14 - 16	SM Makati
Sept 27 & 28	SM North Edsa
Sept 30	SM Ortigas

special buys at ₱150 each

Cute cotton dresses for toddlers aged 2 to 3 years.

at the Infants' Wear Department

Baby SALE

up to 50% off on great choices

now thru Sept. 30

free gifts for baby!

FREE toddler activity apron with every ₱300 single-receipt purchase of Baby Looney Tunes items at the Infants' Wear Department

FREE VIP pass to PLAYTIME WITH BABY LOONEY TUNES with every ₱300 single-receipt purchase of Puppy Scuddy Doo, Super Baby, or Baby Looney Tunes items

plus! **Free loot bags** for the first 50 kiddie registrants to the Playtime Playground

FREE Children's Bible Stories with every ₱300 single receipt purchase of Cotton Buff items

great value for mommy!

Free ONE (1) BABY MILK BATH

for every ₱100 single receipt purchase at the Infants' Wear Department

*Maximum of 3 bottles per transaction

now thru Sept. 16 only

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

We've got it all for you!

CUBAO · MAKATI · MARIKINA · NORTH EDSA · STA. MESA · ORTIGAS · LAS PIÑAS · BACOOR · FAIRVIEW · MANILA · BICUTAN · PAMPANGA · MANDALUYONG · DELGADO · CEBU · DAVAO · CAGAYAN DE ORO · BATANGAS · DASMARIÑAS · LUCENA · BAGUIO · MARILAO · SUCAT · SAN LAZARO · STA. ROSA · CLARK · MALL OF ASIA · UPN · BACOLOD

super

Brave pop sensibilities

Look at these 5 directors and see the difference between having an eye and having a vision

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT electronic rhythms creeping in to and out of songs that captures my interest. They're subtle yet exciting; they operate under peculiar types of energies but they never draw attention to themselves.

Like young, happy bees, five directors are zooming their seamless, well-crewed thuggery with integrity and edge. There's exhilaration, but you get it. There's none of the obtuse, which I really hate—none of the pompous indifference. Most if not all of their pieces have a sense of humor, and that's fine.

who's influenced by '70s, '80s and '90s. Pete Shopsin and Jerry de Leon films, The Beatles, Volkswagen, Adidas, low-fi, low-budget things, films on Pinoy Rock Office, inspired fanwriter, French New Wave films in school, Mike de Leon, Gino Brocka, and his contemporaries like Quark Henares and Mario Dumaya.

RA'S STRANGE SHOW

"Strange River" lasted only for 26 episodes, roughly three seasons, but RA's pretty proud of the particular body of work. So were the influences that the show has on his generation. The night before I talked to him, he found out from his family members that the show is discussed in an Art Studies class in UP. It's also been a subject of a few theses. RA wondered how the kids interpreted the show, but look good in retrospect.

RA ADMITS THAT

he doesn't know how to smile. His creative process, he shares, is pretty spontaneous. Often, he ponders the concept the night before the shoot itself. Sometimes he's on the set, calling in the writers making the outline right there. But RA doesn't advise kids to copy him—he tells them to strive to learn the process of writing a script and creating a storyboard.

(MORE P.)

imagine TV Reborn to give you the luxury of space

TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG

SAMSUNG

Abbie Jordan Cenko, Graphics Design
Aries B. Espinosa, Editor

Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Buffet 8-5-0 at Manila Pavilion

SEASONS, MANILA PAVILION HOTEL's interactive lifestyle restaurant which is receiving admiration of international dishes for only P888, for thirty less-savory hours a commendably priced buffet that invites sophisticated luncheons at the Buffet 8-5-0.

For the food adventurer who wants value for dime dining explores the four buffet stations spanning with dishes from around the globe. See the enticing flavors display of the freshest catch and choice cuts at the live station. Gourmets presented right next to the hot pots/stir dishes. MPH executive chef Erik Ong Lang points out, "this our theme: some users choose to eat their fill from grandma, tasty, Japa-Japa, salmon, paresse, swordfish, beef tender, each of family, seasons and have a cooked just the way you want it."

And here does a table and California with fashion wound to suit' in the cold season, a spread of gorgeous squeezers aroma. From the popular Japanese dishes and the Southeast greens for the health buffs to your favorite bites if savory and sequest. A kiosk for all everything may be a good idea to draw your attention.

Hop on the pastry passion for a hour of sugary treats where a choc-holic and sec cream bar is ready to serve heaven delights daily. And since there will always be a fresher way of enjoying an old favorites, allow the friendly buffet station experts to guide you through a new gastronomic adventure in your own time.

"I know of all the world's culinary gods for only P888 a one you treat your wouldn't want to miss," exclaims MPH F&B director Alice Zamora. "Ah are inviting everyone the a closing adventure here at Seasons," he added.

Priced at P888 net per person, the Buffet 8-5-0 is available for dining hours from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. and dinner from 6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 17.

For inquiries and reservations, call Amelia Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2219.

MANILA Pavilion's F&B director Alice Zamora and executive chef Mike De Leng

TASHMASHOU AT THE SILLUVUE!

Indulgence! Everyone' desperate ready as the Bellevue's Cafe d'Este, the famous food haven south of the Metro, serves up a Japanese feast on Sept. 17 to 24. Enjoy crispy tempura, succulent sashimi and other scrumptious dishes from the Land of the Rising Sun for only P988++ per head. Cafe d'Este is at Bellevue Hotel, Alabang. For more details on your needs, swear and supple bulk cream and smoothe like roving choco mocha beans finished with a twist of flavorful mocha aroma — The Bellevue's Cafe of the Month for September. Enjoy this sweet and unique blend as you savor a cup of coffee at the Bellevue's Pastry Corner or bring a box whole for the whole family. For inquiries, call 771-4444.

QUANTUM HOTELS AND RESORTS AT THE PHILIPPINE TRAVEL MART

Quantum Hotels and Resorts has in almost support for the Philippine Travel Mart held recently at the Mega Trade Hall. Save its inception in 2000, Quantum Hotels and Resorts has managed three serviced apartments, 858 "Rizal Mid-Suites, and Paris Mansion, all strategically located in Makati's Central Business District. Last year, Quantum Hotels and Resorts expanded its operations by managing higher category serviced residences, namely the Malaysia Plaza in the Ortigas Center and the Richmonde Hotel Subic Bay Within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales. Quantum Hotels and Resorts recently inked 3-more management contracts for properties in Quezon City and in Boracay, namely, Tune Nemesis, The Alpine Hotel and Boracay Beach Condominiums. Joey Bernardino, Quantum Hotels and Resorts's VP for sales and marketing explains that this group's main focus is on the continuing growth of its properties and long-term investments, like its low entry condominiums at the DOTC to reach the 3 million visitors' mark by the end the year. For more information about Quantum Hotels and Resorts, call tel. nos. 864-8999 loc 42 or log on to www.quantumresorts.com. In photo are (from left) DOT Secretary Ace Durano and Joey Bernardino, Quantum Hotels and Resorts VP for sales and marketing at the 16th Philippine Travel Mart held recently at the SMX Megatrade Hall.

Tosca's 'A Schott el Berge'

MOST RECENTLY IN ELEGANCE AND style, Enjoy and fascinated the science of pairing food, wine and glassware at Tosca – Casa Fernandez's new Italian restaurant. A variety of wines from one of Australia's leading wineries, Schott Berge, will be poured in different glasses especially developed by premium Austrian glass manufacturer Riedel. Schott Berge's wines are available by the glass or bottle by using the right glass. Italian chef Ernesto Lodovici created dishes that perfectly matches each beloved wine. Discover how this intriguing partnership on Monday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. at Tosca. Reservations limited only. Make sure to call 757-1999 or 771-3999 ext 7777 to secure your seat. Tosca is located at the mezzanine level of Ayala Solaire Makati. For inquiries, call 887-3333 local 2305 or 2310.

Relax and rejuvenate on an island in heaven

ISLAND SPA IS NOW IN NORTH Harbour on the fifth to the 5th Level of Pavilion's Mall. Right in the shopping and entertainment hub of Araneta Center, it can be easily called an "in a minute to the mall" location. Welcome to Chinese Therapeutic Foot Massage center and all island Spa for as low as five hundred (30 min.) rate of P375. Or you can enjoy the massage with a mini-head and body massage or a full body massage, your choice of bamboo, or Hawaiian Island Spa of Pavilion's. Relaxation the fifth also offers body scrub, aromatherapy and the 45-minute Hawaiian Lomi-Lomi with the Hot Stone Massage. Reserve your seat with a call to Island Spa at Heaven on the Fifth. For reservations or other details, call 484-8888. Island Spa is also at the 2nd floor of Jupiter Plaza, 109-111 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati City. tel. nos. 889-1224 and 751-8266.

Tony Roma's takeout, delivery and party catering services

TONY ROMA'S introduces their takeout, delivery and party catering services commencing the holiday season. Delivery service is within Mabuhay Metropolitan district and weekend sessions are Mabuhay Terra Centro branch and within business district and weekend sessions and redelivery sessions their deliveries 4 branch. Party catering is also being handled by these new branches but for a within weekend coverage. Invariably the key cities of Manila, Quezon City, Paranaque, Las Pinas, Quezon, Makati, Pasig, Pasay and the Municipality of San Juan and Taguig. Delivery services are available in the following hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Mondays to Saturdays, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. And for Party Catering, they do either a cook-out (others they grill your barbecue menu right in the barbeque food in their customers and deliver on their up to chafing dishes for your guest. They have an extensive list you to choose from and they can also do a buffet of cold-to-you-on barbecue. Tony Roma's basically caters to your personal needs so they make their food and services flexible for our valuable dining experience. They can also bring down for for your convenience.

For additional information, please contact our management at 757-1925, 8 (Quezon) or 771-3999 and 771-3788 (Alabang). Restaurants: Ground floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City; 2nd Floor, Robinsons Place, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City.

Brave pop sensibilities

from page F1

Photos by PONS IGNACIO

RA CAN BE AS SPECTACULAR, SPECTACULAR/SPONTANEOUS

on Host Michael Master Magician. In 2004, MTV asked him to create nine one-minute segments for its awards show. The original concept was a festival show inspired by the film "Shake, Rattle and Roll." There was supposed to be a haunted house, and a refrigerator chasing Ramon, Tado and the rest of the crew. But the budget wasn't enough so the concept was turned down. RA thought of spoofing David Blaine, thinking it would be a funny thing to do. MTV dapped the idea.

COMEDY IS ANYTHING THAT'S FUNNY

even if things which aren't supposed to be funny turn out to be so, shares RA. Two weeks ago, Bit and Leonil de Leyza were laughing like mad watching Thash at the MTV on a laptop in the wee hours of the morning. Imus, he says, you'll see 2 cuts in his music videos.

BUT IF YOU THINK IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FUN FUN FUN, GUESS WHAT,

RA's done a few documentaries for an International NGO (that's against the World Trade Organization). He calls them his "secret works." They've been translated in 12 languages, including Thai and Spanish, which he finds really funny because of the dubbing they did.

RA IS HAPPY THAT HIS STABLE OF TALENTS

reloads his calls "mga Kuya Carlo" is continuously talented. He feels like a coach who knows every member of his team well – on the set, they're able to execute specific plays with one the need to talk too much.

RA'S NOT INTENDING TO MAKE

the comic superfilm, but says that he'd like to leave a legacy. He doesn't see himself doing so many films, which is something he can't explain. Right now he's just happy with being a bit underground and a bit artsy-fartsy, with a small group of kids enjoying what he does on cut.

BACK WHEN MARIE JAMORA WAS YOUNG,

her mom and mentor in the future would recruit MTV as listeners and send them over to the Philippines, which means ever since the '80s, she's been watching music videos with her brother and sister who were 12-13 years older than she was. She got influenced as an early age to like music, new wave and videos.

MORE RECENTLY, MARIE'S INSPIRED

by Michel Gondry, a filmmaker who she happens to be the frontrunner of the French rock band Daft Punk. Obviously he's a big influence, especially because she herself is a drummer of a band called Blue Dyde.

"If he can be that great—being a musician and a filmmaker—then the stakes are higher."

THE PROJECT THAT MARIE'S INVESTED IN THE MOST

is her Master's thesis in Columbia Uni called "Doctor Calliope at Ang Dong dalawa."

"That's basic because Doctor Calliope came from a band that I had called Doctor Calliope and the Tin Gil Twins. The lead singer in that band played Doctor Calliope in my film. I was also able to cast Eddie Garcia, but he was the only big one there. All the other members of the cast were my friends. It wasn't really a success—it was a flop in the sense that I showed it to my teachers and they wanted me to change it."

MARIE NEVER, EVER THINKS ABOUT

the audience. It's always about what she likes, she says. She thinks that if it doesn't work for her, then it won't work for anyone else, after setting the material, she brings it to her family members who are all film buffs and television addicts. She doesn't even tell them the story of the video—she's like, okay, here it is. That way she sees if they really get it. The family will comment, and tell her what they don't understand.

MARIE EXAMINES THE MUSIC VIDEO INDUSTRY

and says that the production values are very good—the videos look nice, the ideas are more interesting than before.

"Before, you had a girl in her bedroom looking out into the rain from her window and then suddenly someone knocks on the door and there's a dude there—that type of thing. That's not how videos are now—no, now have concepts—like, Sarah Geronimo is being chased by a helicopter. I mean, no matter what, it's step up, at least you're trying something."

For Marie, the best videos are when the band trusts her. She doesn't want them to say okay, you are conquering with this girl and this guy and she'll choose the best concept. For her, that's not a good process. There's no money in music videos, so she wonders why people have to be very competitive.

THE BUDGET'S BAAAD

and they're slowly going down down—which Marie feels strongly about.

"Four years before they were ready to spend? That's why I wanted to quit. The genius quit music videos for a while because it's not worth it anymore. Like, it's not about the money but we also have to eat."

AND YET MARIE SEEMS ENTHUSED ABOUT HER FUTURE

as an in-house director at Unicef. She says that she thinks all those things because she wants to tell a story. In the coming days, she's aiming to focus on the short form—television commercials. Next year, she'll pursue her big dream—a full-length film.

MOVING ON, TREBB MONTRERAS RECALLS

that when he was 5 years old, his dad, who was a bodyboyd, taught him step-motion animation. That sparked his interest in visual communication.

EVERYTHING RELATED TO MAKING MUSIC VIDEOS, FOR TREBB, STARTS WITH

hearing the song. Then he reads the lyrics, which gives him some ideas. He then proceeds to the conceptualization stage, which interestingly starts with colors. Basically, he says, it's about giving color to sound.

"Like I'll sense that a sound seems blue. Then I see the images, like is it a closet or a island or a train? Then I draw an idea box. Then I imagine the whole scene."

LET'S GO BACK

to Trebb's childhood days where he recalls hearing songs and imagining them being played in music videos.

"When I was a kid, I was like everyone else, you know, semi-semi, and I was imagining things that I'd like to happen. The result? All those corny story lines for music videos were born in my head."

YES TREBB'S PART IS THIS SHORT

because, as he puts it, he's part of the MTV generation. He wants things short but sweet. And he wants them to have a unique appeal, like the full length he's dreaming of making next year.

BEFORE WE END, QUARK WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Hugo Carrillo who choosed him all the Mens he studied up filming and made him want to be a filmmaker. They're in an HU 127 subtx class together called "Let's Fail." One day, Quark asked Hugo if he wanted to make a band movie, a rock-and-roll film together. Hugo said yes.

"For the longest time, I've been studying on 'Rakenrol.' That's the only reason I did 'Super Ninja' actually because they're (the studio) gonna do Rakenrol after that. But 'Super Ninja' didn't make us much money so they'll wanted it to, (scrapping Rakenrol) in the most personal film that I've ever worked on. It's about me and Hugo growing up in the rock scene. It's about starting a band. Every thing and everyone is based on real life—rip-off life, or something like that."

MEANWHILE QUARK HENARES

is influenced by David Lynch, Julianne Hadfield, Gaten Matarazzo, his current obsession on television, "Lost," and shirtlessly-anything... "Like tomorrow, we have a shoot and we're having it on the infinity side and TGI's tomorrow!"

QUARK STARTS WITH SCENES IN HIS MIND

like during the creative process he undertook for "A Date with Jan Magat" and "Ikaw." "Like in "A Date," he wanted to make a slide show explaining a character inside her did, via a Jan Magat montage), and to say, a guy getting killed in the name of a cheesy love song.

THE ONLY FILM THAT QUARK DID THAT HE ACTUALLY LIKED

is "Intsa." He has wanted to do the project since high school. The process was great, he recalls, because Vina left him alone to work with people that he loved. When you watch the film, you feel the joy of the people working behind the film—it's contagious. But, man, those guys are happy. Everytime he feels like quitting, he thinks of his friend Allen's mantra in comedy film.

OH HELLO BY THE WAY

QUARK LOVES

silly pop things that spark his creativity like Player's Cologne for Men, the "Lasik, signalong squid" commercial, and even the PCSO people. He's also pretty crazy about this paper's old commercial that used to play in movie houses, and with the ad's lead star, who he calls "Philippine Daily Inquirer."

"When you able to catch 'Sunog,' the best line of the year starring Isabel Granada? She? Saying? It's a sci-fi film with three short siblings. And Philippine Daily Inquirer was there! We were like, oh wow Philippine Daily Inquirer is here! And it's directed by a guy named Sean Lau Ansi! But it's pause now, his sons. By one means it is to be Sunog but for some weird reason, we haven't Sunog."

THERE'S NOTHING MORE REWARDING FOR QUARK

than seeing an audience react to his film. He makes a clear however, than he doesn't want to make a film just to sell tickets. Entertaining audiences is still his No. 1 priority.

"Watching 'em, watching them, whatever. I don't want to pander to the audience. I don't want just so they'll like it, which I've done many times. I know there's an audience for my stuff but it's probably not the audience that the big companies want. And I think they've realized that already and I've realized that myself."

AND LASTLY MEET TOPPEL LEE

video man inspired by avenger films by his uncle Bun Lee, an expert's avenged Chinesakers (brandew uncle, Bruno Lee, "who's a painter on signing proud" laughs Toppel on soprano himself artistically. He shares that he owes his style of execution of concepts and visuals to these two people. His father, too, a carpenter and a banker, also guided Toppel to hunting his sense of humor—selling him to reject something funny in everything that he would make because it's a great feeling to make people smile.

TOPPEL TALKS ABOUT HIS APPROACH

which he calls experimental conservative. He says that he doesn't rely too much on storytelling, to stand his trike to super experimental manners in his characters. Sometimes he gets bored with too much movement, especially with abstract forms.

WITH HIS MUSIC VIDEOS, TOPPEL STARTS WITH SEEING

where he can take a particular song. While conceptualizing for Itsapot'ose's "Hari ng Isdang," he was hit by a particular part where lead singer Ebe Dancel was "singing to pursuing police, feeling he smelled 'yung mga isda." Toppel translated this bit to a scene where Ebe's on top of a building, screaming, with the camera moving around him.

BUT NOWADAYS, TOPPEL DOESN'T FOLLOW

the lyrics or the tunes anymore.

"Minsan na ang mga budget kaya sinasabi ko na lang, 'Wala ka para, kumuha ng iba!'"

RIGHT NOW, TOPPEL IS WORKING

on "Kamasalog" for Gilda "because I need to pay bills" he shares. He's also shooting the news billboard "Shuta, Barla and Ball" film this Christmas.

WHAT TOPPEL REALLY WANTS TO DO

are patriotic movies. "Pasang Bombacero" to Pinoy" he says. But he admits that it would be hard to do so since producers are so unsure of the market for action films. He's hoping that MMDA or the PCCA can fund his dream of making a stylized action film that Filipinos will be proud of.

Every Home Deserves an Electrolux

With 100 years of European heritage and global experience in the appliance industry, Electrolux products are trusted worldwide to provide the best care for homes everywhere. From washers and dryers to refrigerators and ovens, Electrolux offers high-quality products that always have consumer needs and lifestyles in mind.

Available in over 150 countries, Electrolux plays a part in making the lives of many families easier everyday. Every second, two Electrolux products are sold somewhere in the world. Electrolux prides itself in making products that are not only functional and modern but also beautifully designed and easy to use.

For Electrolux, consumer insights are essential. They are used to develop appliances that deliver exactly what the consumer needs. Electrolux believes that thoughtfulness is a way of life and a way to create products that provide relevant and innovative solutions to various appliance needs. Electrolux front load washing machines and dryers are designed with the consumer in mind. They offer significant features that make it convenient and practical to give the best care for clothes with just a simple touch of a button. Electrolux front load washers are elegant and stylish making them a perfect fit for every home.

Electrolux front load washers are gentler on clothes making sure that even the most delicate fabrics get the best possible care. With many consumers investing on clothes they would like to use for as long as possible, this makes for an important concern that Electrolux addresses. With Electrolux, clothes last longer and receive a thorough wash every time. Even delicate fabrics are cared for both gently and efficiently without compromising performance. Front load washers also ensure less entangled fabrics to clean and protect clothes with every wash. The Aqua Shower Technology provides superior wash performance to clean even the most stubborn stains. This assures that clothes are always clean after washing.

Electrolux recognizes that the world's resources are valuable and that saving water is vital. In today's global climate when water crises abound in many countries, the need to save water has grown increasingly in the minds of consumers. In the Philippines, this holds true as well as more Filipinos recognize the value of saving water as supply decreases. Electrolux front load washers were made with saving water in mind, they use only 10 to 16 liters of water per wash for a savings of 30% to 70%. It is a way for consumers to help play their part in water conservation. Saving water also means using less detergent which ensures both savings and protection for the environment.

Electrolux washers and dryers are easy to use. They are made to be simple and friendly. The control panel of each washer features labeled buttons and dials that help owners make every use a trouble-free experience. Customized wash programs ensure that different types of fabrics, even delicate ones, are cleaned properly and protected. Electrolux front load washers automatically adjust the time and water needed to make every wash hassle-free.

Design plays an important role in the creation of every Electrolux washer and dryer. The elegant and sophisticated design makes for a stylish addition to every home. Electrolux front load washers and dryers can be stacked one on top of the other to save space in small laundry areas. This gives home owners more room for other items while also having beautifully designed appliances.

Drying clothes under the sun can easily wear out the color and texture of clothes. Electrolux dryers keep clothes looking newer longer and also eliminates the need for drying spaces especially during the rainy season. The anti-crease function reduces wrinkling and prevents creasing without damaging clothes and making them easier to iron.

Electrolux washing machines and dryers are designed to make life not only easier, but better as well. They understand that consumers value their clothes, their time and their investments and because of that, they offer front load washers and dryers that are trusted to give the best value for both quality and dependability.

Electrolux knows that consumers are proud of their homes and deserves only the most premium appliances. They want to make it easy for every home owner to have high quality front load washers and dryers that are gentle, friendly and efficient. Now, getting the best in life has never been easier with special discounts and easy payment schemes on Electrolux front load washers and dryers available at all major appliance dealers nationwide. Because they believe that every home deserves an Electrolux, investing in this premium brand is now as simple as using it.

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre ● Assistant Editor Rina P. Jimlo

Send us your feedback: inquirer.net.ph/mailbag/letterstoeditor or 897-2700 loc. 883 (fax only) E-mail pi_saturday_special@hotmail.com.ph

On the set of 'The Echo' with Iza Calzado

TORONTO, ONTARIO—PIC COSTELOE with our coverage of our visit to the set of "The Echo" in Toronto. We chatted with Iza Calzado, who reprises her role in Tom Lazarus' American remake of his film, "Segno."

Tom brought us to Iza's trailer for this interview. Of Tom, Iza said: "He cast and crew enjoy working with him. They say he's a cool guy. It's a relief to have him as director of my first international film...he makes me proud!"

Iza recently met Kevin Durand, who plays her policeman husband in "The Echo." "He's 6'6" tall!," she exclaimed.

As for the Brits lead actor, Jesse Bradford ("Flags of Our Fathers"), Iza claimed the actor is now addicted to dried mangoes. Iza had brought with her many packets of this Philippine snack. She recounted Chet Jacobi's warning: "Avail, Iloilo International Airport is closed to dried mangoes!"

Iza said that, in one scene with Jesse, he couldn't stop laughing. She explained that he was amazed at the emotional situation he found himself in during the scene.

He eventually suppressed the ticklish scene, which we're sure will be one of the film's many highlights. She also showed us pictures she took with her cousin, who was being filmed with a harness.

Carlos Leon, Shakeena's ex and father of her daughter, Lourdes, is doing his part. Iza shared, "Carlos was the first actor I acted with. He's very nice. He was my bitch buddy for a couple of days." She also found a lot of things in common with Amelia Warner, who plays Jesse's girlfriend.

Prosthetics

Jamie Mark, who portrays Iza's daughter, passed by. The young actress, similarly arrested as Iza, had a mass of blurry hair, which was sprayed to look darker. She had prosthetics on, but her face was not made

CALZADO (right) with co-star Jamie Mark, who plays her daughter in Hollywood's remake of Tom Lazarus' "Segno."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert U. Segubia

Jodie Foster's latest starrer triggers debate on justice and vengeance

By Rina P. Jimlo

"The Brave One"
Dir. Neil Jordan
St. Jodie Foster, Terrence Howard

HELL HATH NO GREATER FURY THAN A woman with a grudge. Jodie Foster Erica Bain (Jodie Foster) sees her perfect world crumbling when, during a leisurely evening stroll with her boyfriend, Sam Almore (Terrence Andrews), in New York's Central Park, they are attacked and brutally beaten by three thugs in a random act of violence.

JOHN PI

Stars weigh in on the art of acting

By Nestor U. Torre

OLIVIER. "Based acting is lying convincingly."

YOU WANT TO BE an actor, but don't know what it's all about? Let some veteran stars share their experiences from plain tell you all about it.

Laurence Olivier: What is acting but lying—and what is good acting but lying convincingly?

Charlie Chaplin: Acting is timing. My mother gave me that. I owe him millions. I don't think you can teach a person to act.

Isabelle Huppert: Acting is a way of living out one's unsanity.

Animalistic

Clint Eastwood: Acting isn't an intellectual art at all. It's emotionalistic—it comes out of the animal part of the brain.

Paul Newman: Acting is like letting your pants down—you're so exposed.

Rod Steiger: It wounds, pompous, but it's the reason I can get to bring God. I'm trying to create the man beings—and so does God.

Julie Christie: It's very self-indulgent. I get a really big satisfaction out of it.

Bette Davis: Acting should be bigger than life. Movies should be bigger than life. It should all be bigger than life!

Jane Fonda: Acting is a frivolous, but frivolity is a big part of any society. So, we might as well relax and enjoy it!

Warren Beatty: I give myself to my roles as a lover—it's the only way!

Sigourney Weaver: Some of the most intense relationships are between actors and the characters they play. There's a fine line between reality and make-believe.

Kirk Douglas: Burt Lancaster (it's a childish quality—something that most of us lose as we grow older.

Michael Douglas: It's so silly... I'm in my 40s now, playing make-believe.

Technique

Peter Ustinov: You work hard for years to learn a technique—which you then should forget the minute it's begun!

Burt: You don't have to be smart to act—look at Ronald Reagan, who even got to be president of the United States!

Glenda Jackson: You'd think it's something one would grow out of—but, you grow into it. The more you act, the more you realize how painfully easy it is to be basic and how very difficult it is to be good.

Joanna Woodward: Acting is like sex—you should do it, not talk about it!

OLIVIER. "Some of the most intense relationships are between actors and the characters they play."

From page G1

Jodie Foster's latest starrer...

With her latest home to death, Kiko is now consumed by fear and anxiety every time she walks the streets of "the safest big city in the world." She's panicked walk, locks runs of the same thought of leaving her house!

After she makes an suddenly friendship with detective Beau Bleiver (Terrence Howard) —who is investigating a series of vigilante like murders—she tells him how crimes and grief have reverse her character-changed her.

Indeed, Kiko's dreary existence in life has turned grim. For her, the world has become a darker and more menacing place —and the incentive to live no to help, either!

With great resolve, she decides to arm herself with a gun to protect herself a basic automatic weapon for protection—until she witnesses a violent shooting in a convenient store that forces her to use the gun she's just purchased! To her surprise, the incident empowers her—and brings more calm a sense to her life—at last!

With a score to settle, the vigilante hero easy it is to take matters into her own hands—particularly when someone doesn't get in the way.

Before long, she finds herself face-to-face again with fiancé's murderers killers. But, just how far can a person go to keep the wheels of justice spinning? And when a response justified?

Despite some derivative implausibilities and an occasionally meandering exposition that overuses the movie unnecessarily, Neil Jordan ("The Crying Game," "Breakfast on Pluto") elevates the average movie genre and turns his film's familiar story into a psychological thriller that examines the politics of guilt and the justice system in the context of one woman's fear and grief.

Foster inhabits her role with the fierce intensity and intelligence that served her well in films like "The Accused" and "The Silence of the Lambs."

Giving synergy to the actress' intense theatric turn is the brilliant Howard ("Hustle and Flow") as the sympathetic Detective with his nuanced portrayal of the world-weary cop who realizes that what's legal is not necessarily what's always right.

Together, they make a formidable acting tandem that elevates this engaging fantasy to justice opposition, culpability and retribution.

Despite the movie's dark theme, it nevertheless ends on an inspiring note about friendship. Jordan subtly but powerfully establishes the inspiring relationship that binds Kiko and Mercer together—they share the kind of friendship that's strong enough to land broken hearts, and pure enough to restore faith in love's bravery.

On the set...

From page G1

to look as battered as Ian's. "She's sweet, beautiful and smart," Ian described Jamie.

The 25-year-old actress is enjoying her first time in her on her own. "In Manila, I'm always surrounded by people. I love talking to people, but I take like having all this time to think!"

What she misses most about Manila is having her own personal trainer. She goes to the gym on her lunch break and evening. Ian's Arnaud boyfriend, Jerry Lawon, who manages a rock band, has visited her here.

When we stopped out of her trailer, Ian introduced us to Paul Jones, the stylists make-up artist. (Clint Dorsey "Thou Tho Up") who created her fierce werewolf look.

After finishing her scenes this week, Ian will fly back to Manila today (Saturday), to plunge right back into her busy TV schedule, and to begin a movie with Taiwanese actor-cum-pop star Jimi Blue Ochoa, which will be shot in Bataan.

The plot of the movie, to be directed by Adolfo Alix Jr., sounds interesting: A Taiwanese fisherman, washed ashore in Bataan, meets his soul mate, despite not knowing each other's language. They fall in love.

Sweet smile

With a sweet smile, Ian bared, "I visualized' playing the role in "The Rules." Despite the obstacles that seemed to initially block her chances of reprising her role, Ian believes that her positive outlook made it possible for her to finally audition for the Bernardo Bernardo "Unsaid" the "Batman" role, too.

"Soon, I visualize' that I will be guesting on Gerald's show someday," she mused. With her success rate at this unique pace, Ian just might be meeting Oprah soon!

Later, Ian gave us an update on a email about filming her most important scenes in "The Rules": "I was broken up by a 6'6" guy (Kevin Dennell) today. Our scene was so intense—I spent half the day crying! He's such a good actor. I love working with him. In real life, he's the opposite of his character. He's a sweet, gentle guy!"

(To be continued tomorrow)

E-mail wrapsdot 1566@yahoo.com and read her blog, "The Manila Affair," at www.inquirer.net/specialreport

GARON and Magsanoc (second and third from the left) blow their candles out as Romeo and Torrevillas look on.

TESSA sings "Like A Virgin."

Birthday gals

LAST MONDAY, ON HER DAY OFF, LETTY Jimenez-Magsanoc attended a special party to celebrate the birthdays of people born in September.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navarrete

Guests began trickling in at the La Mesa dorm on Katalol, at 7 p.m. First to come was Miss Jimenez-David, followed by our boss, who guess I'm little of Tiessa Wine Cellars, HR founder Eugenia Duran-Apostol, Manila Bulletin's Deirdre Sipangan and Ethel Strobel, Frank Fuentes, Philippine Star's Jeannie Borreveld (with Sarrell), and Berk Taglo (with her tenor son-in-law).

Also present were HR's Jo Jamora and Monica Testa, Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos and Nellie Stolle, and surprise guests Richard Meth, Dr. Rebecca B. Singson and Tessa Prieto Valdes. They were our entertainers for the night.

Gorgeous sang for Letty and Miss Galore (both hers on Sept. 13), Deanie Ridder belted out "Bye Bye, Blackbird," while Tessa brought the house down with her version of Madonna's "Like A Virgin."

The birthday ladies blew the candles on a peanut butter cake. Eggie Apostol did an easy number, Sarrell sang for Deanie, George Taglo entertained us with his operatic pieces, and Simpson and Virgie sang duets with Richard. The party was a celebration of friendship—and a riot!

* * *

We're still asking for financial assistance to help Stanie, 30, who's afflicted with stage three breast cancer. Deposit to Jessica Delos, BPI Pacific Star Branch S/A 2769024375. We need your help! Call 895-1767.

Eating...

From page 14

pasta we taken aback, but my friend simply laughs it off.

I figured that my friends' food habits are actually good survival skills in the event of an emergency or disaster. We can forgo cooking and eat raw vegetables instead. But, we need we wait for a disaster to start eating raw, do we?

If you really want to go on a food adventure, try the pecan, which originates from Australia. You can mix it with salads, or munch on it.

When you have your own garden, it's exciting to have kids around when harvesting okra or peanuts rather than eating them raw. At a young age, kids should develop an appreciation for natural food devoid of artificial flavorings. It's about time we learn to enjoy eating our vegetables!

DIRECTOR'S CUT

'Chopsuey' is a dream come true for Cathy Camarillo

By Ronald G. Mangubat

FIRST-TIME DIRECTOR CATHY Camarillo's "Chopsuey," her first full-length digital film, was finally shown in Boston recently. "I didn't imagine it to be like this," she declares nervously. "I've been in the industry for a decade now, but nothing prepared me for this."

Since 1997, Camarillo, a UP Journalism graduate, has been an assistant director to a lot of mainstream filmmakers like Laurice Guillen ("Tanging Yaman") and Joyce Bernal ("Tanging Ina," "Don't Give Up On Us"). But, the 33-year-old director already nurtured a dream of making her own full-length film one day. In fact, she verbalized this to her friend, Pinky Pascual, during the shooting breaks of "I'll Then Was You."

Promise

Camarillo recalls: "I told Pinky I wanted to direct my own film, and he said: 'Why not? I promise to support you!' So, the moment I was offered to direct 'Chopsuey,' I already had Pinky in mind."

"Chopsuey," a quiet but searing family drama that tackles depression, took one year to prepare—and 18 days to shoot! Know-jels from our interview:

Have you always wanted to become a film director?

No! really. When I was a child, I wanted to become a newscaster or a journalist. That's why I took up journalism at UP. I tried working in a news program on TV, but the experience was very taxing and the work schedule was taking its toll on my marriage.

Taxing field

But, you still ended up in a similarly taxing field—filmmaking...

By then, I already knew how to prioritize things. I have learned to enjoy my job.

Why did you choose depression as the subject of your first film?

Because it's a complex issue, one that's largely misunderstood. The movie is not really a serious study on depression—it's more about how a family gets closer when their eldest brother becomes chronically depressed.

How is this different from other films that have tackled the lives of Chinese-Filipinos?

It's quieter and plotless, in a sense, but the characters stand out. We also decided not to let the actors speak in Chinese accents.

Message

What is your message there?

There's a line in the book, "Somboys with Hearts," that goes, "Life is a series of pratfalls and puffs. You want to do something, but you're bound to do something else." It's called tension of the opposites—like pulling a rubber band. And, most of us live somewhere in the middle. Love wins—that's what I want to impart!

How were you able to convince Piolo to be pairing the diametrics-protagonists?

We're close, so it was easy to ask; he gave me his word that he would appear in my very first film.

Was it difficult to direct a close friend?

Yes! I told Piolo I couldn't pamper him. I said, "Please, help me. I have 10 days to finish principal photography, and I need to shoot 17 sequences every day!" He was supportive and professional.

How was it like directing your first film?

Scary but fulfilling—*ganoon pala ang pakiramdam!* Kasi, when I was just an assistant director, I had my own interpretation of a scene. Sometimes, I would clash it with my directors, but, the final decision was still theirs.

What kind of film would you like to do next?

I'd like to do a romantic drama, something in the mold of "Unfaithful." As a woman, I have a lot of experiences where a camera is there, and I want to share them. There are many lessons that can be drawn from those experiences! *—more laughter*

How was it like directing your first film?

Scary but fulfilling—*ganoon pala ang pakiramdam!* Kasi, when I was just an assistant director, I had my own interpretation of a scene. Sometimes, I would clash it with my directors, but, the final decision was still theirs.

What kind of film would you like to do next?

I'd like to do a romantic drama, something in the mold of "Unfaithful." As a woman, I have a lot of experiences where a camera is there, and I want to share them. There are many lessons that can be drawn from those experiences! *—more laughter*

CAMARILLO (RIGHT). Directs Piolo in his first indie film.

Arevalo is all praises for digital features

By Rolly M. Urbano

THE ACTOR BEHIND THE VOICE over of "Yakisa," the newest denizen of the Philippine Western Desert, is Rahel Arevalo. We talked to the actor briefly during the ad's launch at Greenbelt 2's My Cinema, Greenbelt 3. He was there with wife Barbara Perez, who was slashed, because their grandchild has a walk-on part in the ad.

"Yakisa" makes use of the actor's baritone and rich history as it recognizes the family relevance in the veterans of World War II. Rahel's narration is brief, but it carries a firm message that encourages the moviegoer—Filipino to them for sound—or "Yakisa, Pilipino!"

Popular couple

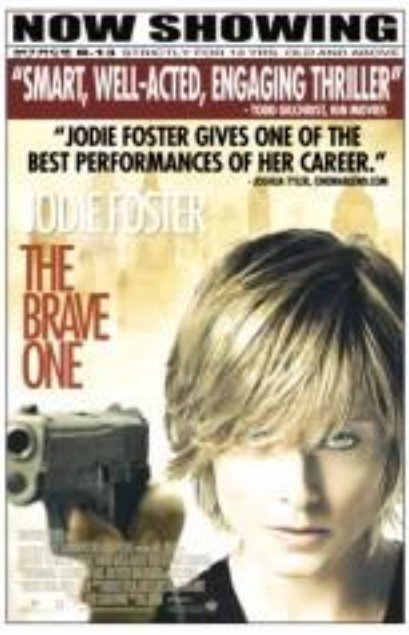
When the subject of indie filmmaking was raised, the popular couple shared their experiences. Barbara said Cinemalaya movie, "Yakisa." Barbara says it was her daughter who convinced her to do the film. She relates: "She watched for the skill of the director, Noble Fernandez, whom work in commercials she had seen. Afterwards, I thought that if I wanted to make a comeback, I wanted it to be in a mainstream film.

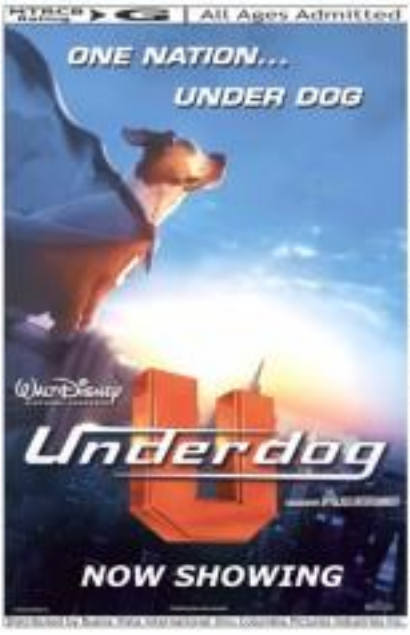
"But, I took my daughter's word and, to my delight, I fell in love with the script—*ang ganda!* It inspired me! When it was time to shoot my scenes in Phu Lagoon, I knew I was here by heart—and I was there an hour early! The late Dra Pena really instilled in me the importance of discipline. 'Yakisa' was a new experience for me—and a labor of love!"

AREVALO. "Foreigners are warming up to digital movies."

Budget

Robert adds, "Indie producers work on a very tight budget, yet they manage to come up with worthy projects! Can you imagine what they'll come up with if they have the budget of a mainstream movie? The important thing is, the market of indie films is growing, and moviegoers who normally shy away from them are warming up to them. And they're getting critical acclaim in film festivals around the world. Sooner or later, mainstream producing patawarin ng mga tao ang pangang kisang pabibole."





Lotus Pond

R. Valencia and S. Alvarado

Cabmy raw vegges

AFTER A CHINESE friend told us that she eats a lot of raw vegetables, she pointed all a sweet potato and ate it as it was of us. She invited us to taste it, so we did. We had to agree, because it tasted good...it was crunchy and flavorful!

Menu

She likes to munch on raw vegetables (Snow pea), she also prepared raw potato strips, salted and tossed. Then, she sautéed some garlic and onions, again adding potatoes to the mixture.

Another friend brings guests to his garden in Tagaytay where he singles out the sayote (chuko), grabs a young one, and likes into it. He

SATURDAY Special

Manay Ichu honored for her many contributions to Filipino movies

By Nestor U. Torre

WE JOIN MANY OTHER film workers and buffs in congratulating Maricha Vera-Perez Maceda for being cited as the recipient of the Natatanging Gawad Urian of the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino. This signal honor is a well-deserved recognition of the many contributions that "Manay Ichu" has made to Philippine movies—not only as producer, but also as indefatigable industry leader.

We worked with Manay Ichu when she and Eddie Romero were co-executive general of the Film Academy of the Philippines, and they tapped us to chair the pioneering Film Academy Classification Board, which set out to prove that film people were capable of regulating themselves—and didn't need a Board of Censors to do it for them!

Culture of censorship

The Academy's stormy term both fueling and reinforcing Marcos's fear in the face of the culture of censorship that film people saw as an affront to and usurpation of artistic freedom, and yet was favored by the Marcos regime as a way of controlling potentially rancorous and "subversive" cinematic expression.

But, Manay Ichu and Eddie enlisted the Film Academy Classification Board on convincingly that every Marcos saw the light, and he opted to create the Government Movie and Television Classification Board to replace the Board of Censors.

Fifteen movie industry people were appointed to the MTRCB, and they proved that filmmakers were indeed capable of responsibly regulating their movie and Manay is currently editing his publication-in-exile post.

As we interviewed Manay Ichu for the book, we felt her deep love for the Filipino movie industry to which her family has devoted the best years of its collective life.

Aside from these personal involvements and associations, we've also seen Maricha

MANUEL

SONY

Sony recommends Windows Vista® Business

The New Essence of Elite

intel Centrino Duo Core 2 Duo inside

Introducing the VAIO TZ from Sony.

Powered by Intel® Centrino® Duo Processor Technology and Windows Vista® Business. The advanced notebook is designed to provide assured performance in a fabulous, ultra-light, carbon fiber body. Packed with features for business and entertainment, it doesn't just boast cutting-edge form and function. It is the cutting edge.

To learn more, visit www.sony.com.ph

CDC (02) 970-7908 cdc.ph@yahoo.com 0917-8377469

GEAR UP YOUR VAIO!

Get the best deals to enjoy a full digital life beyond computing!

VAIO

likes.no.other

VAIO no more bounds

SM ADVANTAGE exclusive

present your SM Advantage Card and get

Storyland

1 ride ticket free

for every 3 tickets purchased (single transaction) at the SM Storyland Mall Rides area inside SM Supermalls or inside SM Storyland branches

Offer good July 15 to October 15, 2007

Check this section every other Saturday for the latest SM Advantage promos and highlights

Reintroducing Eugene Domingo, dramatic actress

AFTER SOME OF THE FUNNIEST comic roles in films and on TV in recent years, character actress Eugene Domingo has established herself as a bankable comedienne. Unknown to many, however, she started as a dramatic actress in Tanghalang Ateneo productions.

In Brillante Mendoza's critically-acclaimed drama, "Foster Child," which started its commercial run last Sept. 12, the public will have a glimpse of Eugene as a dramatic actress. She plays Nanya, a social worker who deals with foster children and children in the slums.

Though she has some comic lines in the movie, Eugene's role is nevertheless a big departure from her current acting assignments, allowing her to display her thespic range.

DOMINGO: Cut her thespic teeth in the theater.

Decision

Eugene says she took part in the Indie: Films project because of her immense love for acting. Happily, her decision has paid off, because she has been praised for her performance in the film.

She means: "It's an honor to be in a film that had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. Prior to the shooting, an interviewed trail feder (mother), which turned out to be an invaluable learning experience! I pray that the Filipino audience will appreciate our work."

"Foster Child" depicts the emotional struggle of Thelma (Cherry Pie Picache), a foster mother from the slums who receives a meager monthly stipend for taking care of her foster child. Picache was named best actress at the Ninth Cinema Onehan Festival in India for her powerful portrayal in the film.

'Wag Kang . . .

From page 96

actress Lily Cha. Call Glynis or Bing Valtuena at (632) 422-6002 loc. 354 or 526.

Screenwriting workshop

Only 20 participants will be mentored by the esteemed Clodualdo "Dop" del Mundo in his first screenwriting workshop organized by Silliah Filmmakers beginning Sept. 22 at The Garage, Ateneo de Manila University. Log on to silliah.org@gmail.com.

Movies on TV

CINEMO today at 3 p.m., "Wife and Prostitute." Tomorrow at 7 p.m., "Sexti Magnifica." Sept. 17, "Crossing Delancey." Sept. 18 at 7:45 a.m., "Selena." Sept. 20 at 8 a.m., "Lords of Dogtown." Sept. 23 at 11 p.m., "Fearless."

'Joshua'

Also opening on Sept. 19 is the thriller, "Joshua," exclusively in Hyatt cinemas. The Sam Rockwell starrer is about a "perfect" couple that unravels into chaos, nonstop stress as marked by the darkness within their V-year-old son.

'The Host'

The multinewsided Korean blockbuster, "The Host," will start its Philippine theater run on Sept. 19. Bong Joon-Ho's film is about toxic chemicals that find their way into the Han River, where a monster is spawned that wreaks havoc on Korea's capital city Seoul.

Esquizph dance group

General Santos City-based hip-hop dance group, Esquizph, will vie for the grand

WAG KANG 81

Manay Ichu...

From page 97

at work in the lives of others. It makes me wonder that Manay was one of the few movie people who helped her recover from crippling financial difficulties.

And Manay bankrolled, a great risk in her own finances, "unconventional" productions like "Batch '81," which is still regarded as one of the most significant Filipino movies ever made.

Main focus

These days, Manay self-effusingly says that her main focus is on being the best grandmother to her sons' burgeoning bevy of babies. We think, however, that her Natatanging Ulian award will fire her wonder-mom and motivate her to produce movies again.

Our dream is that the Vera-Perezes' revered Sampaguita Pictures will return to film production next year, to add its experience and abiding love for movies to the dynamic ferment of activity that is one more beginning to reinvigorate the "never say die" Filipino movie industry.

If Marichu shares that dream, it can happen. With "child of the movies" Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda, anything is doable. —Sigfe Almoje

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA
movietime SHOWTIME
Your life as a movie

DEEP SEA 3D
IMAX THEATRE
NOW SHOWING
DEEP SEA 3D
TICKETS at P350
Panasonic

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
THE BRAVE ONE
UNDERDOG
RUSH HOUR 3
ROGUE ASSASSIN
FOSTER CHILD
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
ROGUE ASSASSIN
A LOVE STORY
SHANGHAILANDERS
EVAN ALMIGHTY
1408

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
ROGUE ASSASSIN
THE BRAVE ONE
UNDERDOG
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
1408
SHANGHAILANDERS
DISTURBIA
A LOVE STORY
RUSH HOUR 3
THE BRAVE ONE
UNDERDOG

SM MEGAMALL
1408
SHANGHAILANDERS
ROGUE ASSASSIN
THE BRAVE ONE
UNDERDOG
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
MY BUNOY'S WEDDING
A LOVE STORY

GLOBE CINEMAS
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG
1408
RUSH HOUR 3
A LOVE STORY

SM MEGAMALL
1408
MY BUNOY WEDDING
UNDERDOG
DISTURBIA

SM MEGAMALL
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG
A LOVE STORY
BIENNO NO SETTEMBRE
RISE
INVASION

SM MEGAMALL
UNDERDOG
1408
INVASION
EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM MEGAMALL
THE BRAVE ONE
INVASION
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
THE BRAVE ONE
NANCY DREW
UNDERDOG
ROGUE ASSASSIN

GLOBE CINEMAS
THE BRAVE ONE
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
1408
UNDERDOG
ROGUE ASSASSIN
EVAN ALMIGHTY
FOSTER CHILD
RUSH HOUR 3
A LOVE STORY
SHANGHAILANDERS

SM CITY MARIKINA
ROGUE ASSASSIN
DAYWATCH
THE BRAVE ONE
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
DISTURBIA

SM CITY CLARK
UNDERDOG
A LOVE STORY
INVASION
RUSH HOUR 3
DAYWATCH
THE BRAVE ONE
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG

SM CITY BACOLOD
UNDERDOG
INVASION
RUSH HOUR 3
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG
THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY BACOOR
1408
INVASION
UNDERDOG
MY BUNOY'S WEDDING
1408
UNDERDOG

SM CITY CEBU
ROGUE ASSASSIN
THE BRAVE ONE
UNDERDOG
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
1408
SHANGHAILANDERS
DISTURBIA
A LOVE STORY
RUSH HOUR 3
THE BRAVE ONE
UNDERDOG

SM CITY DAVAO
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG
A LOVE STORY
INVASION
UNDERDOG
THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY ILOILO
THE BRAVE ONE
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG

SM CITY LUCENA
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG
A LOVE STORY
INVASION
UNDERDOG
THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY MASINAG
HAIRSPRAY
INVASION
RUSH HOUR 3
UNDERDOG
1408
EVAN ALMIGHTY
NANCY DREW
THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
THE BRAVE ONE
UNDERDOG
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
ROGUE ASSASSIN
A LOVE STORY
RUSH HOUR 3
1408
THE BRAVE ONE
UNDERDOG

SM CITY SAN PABLO
UNDERDOG
1408
INVASION
EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY SUCAT
1408
SHANGHAILANDERS
ROGUE ASSASSIN
A LOVE STORY
BIENNO NO SETTEMBRE
RISE
INVASION

SM CITY SUCAT
UNDERDOG
1408
INVASION
EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY TARLAC
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG
A LOVE STORY
INVASION
UNDERDOG
THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY TARLAC
HAIRSPRAY
INVASION
RUSH HOUR 3
UNDERDOG
1408
EVAN ALMIGHTY
NANCY DREW
THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY TARLAC
DISTURBIA
EVAN ALMIGHTY
ROGUE ASSASSIN
UNDERDOG

FOSTER CHILD
A LOVE STORY
BANANE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY TARLAC
UNDERDOG
INVASION
DENSHA OF JAPAN
1408

MOVIES | SOMEWHERE | UNDER SUNSET
NO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THE MOVIE INFORMATION IS BASED ON THE LATEST INFORMATION AND THE MOVIE SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Chance encounter with Luciano Pavarotti

PAVAROTTI. Lets, great classic singer gave Filipinos a once-in-a-lifetime musical treat.

By Bebe Cervantes

OF COURSE, MS BABY ARENAS HAS more stories about the late, great operatic tenor, Luciano Pavarotti. After all, she brought the singing idol to the country despite the legendary star's busy schedule.

Baby generously set up giant screens outside the concert venue so Manila's hoi polloi could also partake of the once-in-a-lifetime musical event.

At the time, I was residing in Manhattan. One morning, there was an announcement on TV that Pavarotti was going to sign autographs in a bookstore downtown.

I hurried and dressed quickly—and got to the venue five minutes before the appointed hour! Imagine, a stretched limo arrived, and out hunkered the overweight tenor!

Eager crowd

He needed the help of his aide—and his cane—as he walked slowly into the building. His aide asked the eager crowd not to bother the star. A tall, blond guy intended his book, nevertheless, but somebody told him, "Stop!" He did.

Fortunately, ordinary mortals were allowed in. I made myself comfortable, read an old newspaper, and observed how the tall blond man still sat in. He talked about the awards, books and photos he had of Pavarotti.

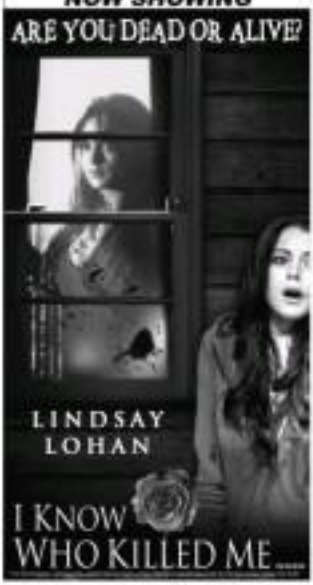
He finally stood on equally talkative grandma who related her own love for the opera. The blond guy announced that he only wanted Pavarotti's autograph on his music book! I decided to claim my place in front of the door, should the tenor suddenly leave. After an hour, the texan did decide to make an announcement out.

Cologne

Pavarotti walked by us close to me that I could smell his cologne. Indeed, he was large! He had difficulty walking in and entering the limo. Alas, the charming duo caught only Pavarotti's rear as he returned his cars.

As the limo drove away, they realized their loss and must, oh so loudly, blondestan-style—complete with the slapping of the forehead. I merely shrugged my Nosy shoulders!

NOW SHOWING



"Wag...

To page H2

pins in the dance-reality TV show, "Star Dance Dance Revolution 2.0." Empirorth made it through the highly competitive weekly finals in July and mercifully Sean was saved.

Album real shows

Today: Sean Lim capers at SM The Block at 3 p.m. Shamcey's "Rockstar" at SM San Lazaro. Tomorrow: The "Rated KAPO Movie ESP" album at SM North Edsa.

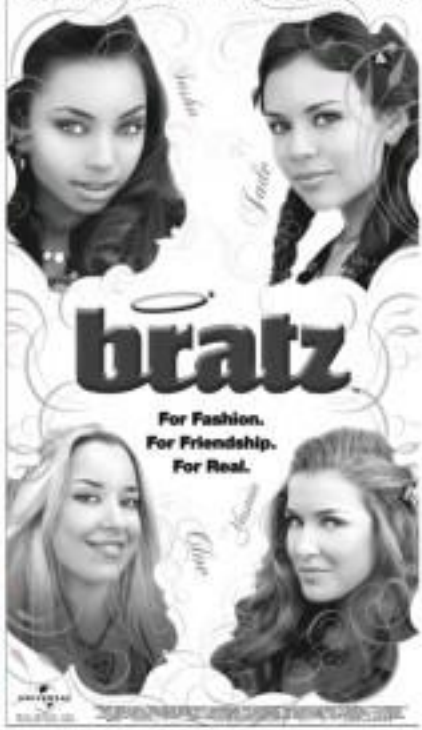
Roanne Mallari

Gifted town talent, Roanne Mallari, plays the lead role of Alice in the musical, "Quinqua," currently being performed at the UP Theatre until Sept. 23. Roanne has been singing since childhood, played the lead in "Once on This Island," and has guested in many mall shows. The show are musical is written by Dennis Marasigan, with music by Jesse Lucas and direction by Frederick Cantos. Call 735-5471 loc. 641.

MALLARI. Tagalo stage-musical, "Quinqua."

OPENS SEPT 19

High school is about to get a makeover.



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 DISTURBIA + TBA	6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE	7 FOSTER CHILD
3 IndieTime: LOGAN LINAM	8 DAYWATCH / NANCY DREW
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	9 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 UNDERDOG	10 1408

Watch LIVE via SATELLITE

Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA • MANILA
METRO EAST • BACOLOD

OCTOBER 7 • Sunday 8:00AM

TICKET PRICE: P400

FREE hotdog, popcorn and drink for every ticket purchased

TICKETS are available at the ticket booth

ERMITA

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN	
2 FOSTER CHILD	8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 UNDERDOG	9 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DISTURBIA	7 SKINWALKERS / 1408

DRESS 'EM UP UNDERDOG STYLE

Bring your cute pet dogs in a superhero costume and get special prizes.

*Registration forms are now available at all Robinsons Gallery Manila Counter Outlets

METRO EAST

1 DAY WATCH	5 SKIN WALKERS / RUSH HOUR 3
2 UNDERDOG	6 DISTURBIA
3 THE BRAVE ONE	7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 1408	8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

NOVALICHES

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN	3 THE BRAVE ONE
2 UNDERDOG	4 DAYWATCH

PIONEER

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN	3 THE BRAVE ONE
2 UNDERDOG	4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

STA. ROSA

1 THE LAST LEGION / SIGNOS
2 UNDERDOG
3 SINKING OF JAPAN
4 THE BRAVE ONE

LIPA

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 RUSH HOUR 3

DASMARINAS

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SIGNOS
4 DAYWATCH

IMUS

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH

ANGELES

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 DISTURBIA

TARLAC

1 SINKING of JAPAN
2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY

STARMILLS

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SIGNOS
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 DISTURBIA
6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 THE INVASION
4 SINKING of JAPAN
5 PLANET TERROR
6 SIGNOS

ILOILO

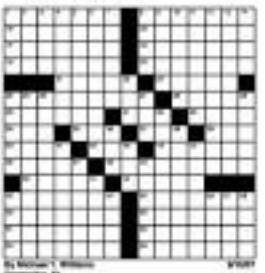
1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 THE INVASION
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 SIGNOS

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNELA AVETRIA

DAILY CROSSWORD



CONCEPTIS SU DOKO

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		4		1				
		1	8		7	2		3
		7		9		8		
6			4	7	5			9
		3		8		1		
5		2	7		6	4		
				5		7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKO

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

7	3	4	9	8	1	2	6	5
8	2	1	5	6	3	4	7	9
9	6	5	8	2	7	4	1	3
3	9	6	1	3	2	7	8	4
2	7	3	4	1	8	6	5	9
1	4	8	6	5	9	3	2	7
4	8	7	3	9	1	5	4	6
6	5	9	2	4	5	8	3	1
5	1	2	7	6	4	9	3	8

Visit www.conceptispuzzles.com for more puzzles and free software.

HOROSCOPE

Bad guys have more fun in 'Underdog'

By Noelani Torre

BEFORE IT WAS A LIVE-ACTION MOVIE spiffed up with CGI, "Underdog" was simply a cheesy silver match-lessed 1960s 30s cartoon strip that was originally introduced to be a breakfast-cereal mascot for General Mills.

Those who grew up watching that bow-legged caped crusader remember him as a shaggy-eared, round-bellied dork of a dog that spoke in rhymes in the pedantic tones of Eisenjanes Willy Cox. That dog does show up in the opening credits of the big-screen adaptation—but that's the first and last time you'll ever see him in the movie.

The original Underdog was quite nerdy. He'd have to be, with a slogan like "Never fear, Underdog is here!"). But his 21st century version, though a bit of a loser, sports the down-to-earth, Southern-flavored voice of Jason Lee.

Streaver" is mildly amusing, but a "Lady and the Tramp" scene between Underdog and his love interest (Polly Pureheart, played by Gregory) doesn't go anywhere.

The only ones who seem to be having fun here are the bad guys, Dr. Simon Barmitzer (Peter Dinklage) and Cad (Patrick Warburton), who really have it up!

Biggest change

The biggest change, though, is of course the fact that Underdog is a real live dog. The part is played by an adorable beagle, Lucy—and he does his job well! However, you can't say the same about director Frank Oz (Bert on sesame street, Miss Piggy on The Muppet Show, Yoda in Star Wars, Sanchez in Charlie's Angels, Grover in Sesame Street, Fozzie Bear in The Muppet Movie, Animal in The Muppet Show, Cookie Monster

Close call for Vanessa Hudgens

HUDGENS. Second chance.

By Steven G. Tarre

AFTER "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2" pulled in a record 17 million viewers on cable TV, its friends lead, Vanessa Hudgens, sees rising highs. Her careers are named Grease, higher when she was an unwed Sri Lanka Bernhard debut at the Tree Classic theatre.

The Hi-Art cutter wowed the viewing public even more when she proclaimed that she wanted to be a good, down-living role model for her teens.

Inspiring proclamation

...Where a difference a couple of weeks make! Even after the movie that inspiring proclamation, Vanessa's high-flying career is tabled with a fixed and the criticized is self-obsessed when her nude photo was made shocking to public.

Ironically, all righteous hell broke loose as media pundits condemned the bittersweet irony of the pompous-led "good role model" and slowly revealing the naked, shocking truth.

The fact that she was still in her teens made the exposé even more distressing. And the fact that the "High School Musical" series of TV movies were produced by squeaky-clean Disney Channel added to fears that the young singer-actress would be pulled out of the entire teen sequel, set to be produced by the big screen.

Third Installment of all years Vanessa's Pilipino and Pil-Am fans, who unquestionably shared in her successful and, possibly to her impending debacle.

Were ironic that this recent Press Island would soon be disparagingly talked about in the teens shoddy league as other celebrities. Like Paris Hilton and Vanessa Hilton, whose sexy photos or tapes also send heads bobbing.

Sincere apology

To her credit, Vanessa quickly issued a sincere apology for the incident and for her self-obsessed photo. Her defenders point as quickly pointed out that it wasn't a publicized photo-graph, as in Hilton's case, but a private photo which was "unintentionally" maliciously leaked to the public.

Three actions helped still the landslide storm a bit, but everyone waited with baited breath for Disney's official reaction. Only when it came did Vanessa and her supporters breathe a collective sigh of relief. Disney opted to remain Vanessa's career for her current and subsequent projects—so, after her painfully close call, she was finally home free!

Disney's reaction disappointed some people who wanted the studio to uphold its "pictured patronage" standard. They accused Disney of opting to protect its financial investment in Vanessa's yellow (hue toe) firing its vaunted principles.

Embarrassment

On the other hand, Disney was poised for having a big enough load to forgive Vanessa despite the embarrassment she had caused the studio and channel. They could be reassured that everybody deserved a second chance—and that included Vanessa.

What a relief! Vanessa can now continue to further her career and perhaps eventually fly higher in the entertainment than any Pil-Am talked to date.

Let's only hope that her "shocking" experience has made her a wiser person. Absolutely no more "private" nude photos, please!

'Wag Kang Lilingon' on PBO

MONTAGE

PHILVIA ENTERTAINMENT'S cable channel, soon-to-be-launched, will air "Wag Kang Lilingon," at 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 28. The serie movie highlights Anne Curtis, Kristine Hermosa, Cherry Pie Picache, Boots Gordon, Dimples Romana, Archie Alemania, Cohen Lim, Raymond Fugoyong and Shaina Agustin.

Smart subscribers can now view PBO movies on their mobile phones through Smart Communications' MyTV service.

Attention, digital filmmakers: The PBO Digital Idol competition deadline is on Oct. 21. The contest gives aspiring filmmakers the chance to win cash prizes and showcase their works on a major cable channel.

Movies on PBO this month: Today, "Eskimo." Sept. 17, "Sinverguenza Ako." Sept. 18, "Nag Lakad ng Isa't Dasa sa Ayo." Sept. 19, "Ang Pinakamasa." Sept. 20, "Ben Hamza." Sept 21, "Babaing may Pa." Sept. 24, "Mandala." Sept. 25, "Bakit May Dig. ang Ba?" Sept. 26, "Lucas Abelardo." Sept. 27, "Buong Dalawa."

CONSTRAINING. Performs at SPICY Club today.

Grand opening

Boiled Chicken Island opens its first branch outside Metro Manila today at Sil Cris Clark in Angeles, Pampanga. Celebrations include a special concert featuring Gigi Costumes at the mall's Bonus Center at 5 p.m. Jason Hotta and Aileen Hamburger will also grace the event.

"Sam Magtatago si Happiness?"

Cinemabuy 2000 box office hit, "Sam Magtatago si Happiness?," is now on DVD video at www.regalfilms.com. The light and breezy comedy drama musical makes man's chance search for happiness in parody. Pinoy Sarkasm. It stars Andy Bais, Cannibal Bunches and Ricky Davao.

Monique plays Eve Ender

Theme bath in the Theatre have something to look forward to this month. Monique Wilson returns to the New Voice Company's "The Good Body" when Eve Ender's comedy-enhanced hit production performs at Silliman University's Love Auditorium on Friday at 8 p.m. and Dumaguete City.

Monique will be joined by acclaimed theatre veteran Ana Roces and exciting young

PASSION. Performs in "The Good Body."

PASCUAL. Endorses high-quality Sky Travel bags.

Pinta for Sky Travel

Acclaimed actor, Pinta Pascual, endorses Sky Travel, a new array of high-quality luggage, computer bags and portfolios ideal for the modern executive, businessman and professionals. Sky Travel bags are available at Landmark, Robinsons and Gaisano department store nationwide.

'Art 2 Art'

Lea Mercado's radio program, "Art 2 Art," is aired at 7 p.m. Tuesdays on dzRH, the flagship station of the Manila Broadcasting Co., which owns 97 percent of its subscribers. One of Lea's recent guests was poet, lecturer, essayist and playwright, Nicar Rubino.